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FIGHTING FIT

"Belize today is more resilient and resolved to excellence and equality than ever before." Hon John Briceño, State of the Nation 2025

The State of the Nation is Fighting Fit…On this sliver of Planet Earth, four hundred thousand-strong, blessed with wealth untold, animated by reverence to freedom, diversity, peace and equity, we shall continue to persevere, continue to advance to broader prosperity. Not colonialism, nor unfounded claims; not economic cycles nor geopolitical shocks; not hurricanes, nor droughts; not disease nor pandemic; not momentary stumbles nor missteps; none of these or anything else can dent our stride to that higher plain, where with the guidance of our Creator, every Belizean can enjoy the precious fruits of this Jewel, Belize. (excerpt of the PM's State of the Nation Address)

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PRIME MINISTER HON JOHN BRICEÑO DELIVERS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

"The State of the Nation is Fighting Fit"
***"Belize today is more resilient and resolved to excellence and equality than ever before."* Hon John Briceño, SOTN 2025**

On Tuesday 16th September at the University of Belize gymnasium in the Garden City of Belmopan, Prime Minister Hon John Briceño delivered the 2025 State of the Nation Address. The presentation was imbued with optimism and enthusiasm as Belize approach the marker of the country's 44th Anniversary of Independence. Briceño's message was clear, *"The State of the Nation is fighting fit*". However, PM Briceño recognized the peaks travelled, while overcoming the valleys since the birth of the Jewel in 1981.

PM Briceño emphasized, "*Belize today is more resilient and resolved to excellence and equality than ever before*." Adding, that Belize is "*More ready to seize the moment in the building of our nation, so rich with potential*." Today, there is an existential crisis with a world more confrontational, more chaotic and more fractious, as the PM explained, than has been witnessed for two generations. Nonetheless, as the PM alluded to "*In this tempest, what Belize represents, what our nation has been able to achieve since 1981 and especially since 2020, is, for sure, truly remarkable*."

This was a stark reminder

of the darkest days resulting from the UDP's misgovernance and the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. The economy was in a spiral, and the Belizean dollar was on the precipice of devaluation. It was the People's United Party government, the John Briceño administration, and PlanBelize in hand that guided Belize to a strong recovery. Presently, the Belize dollar is in good standing backed by "*rock solid reserves and a value peg unmoved since 1949*." Incidentally, economic experts have shown that the surest option to restore an economy in a spiral is growth. A growing economy absorbs debt and restores public finances. According to the PM in "*2024 growth stood at 8.1 percent, with the first half of the year projected for further expansion*".

Another option to restore an economy in a spiral is to create opportunities. Under the Briceño administration unemployment has been reduced to which the chief of government noted exuberantly, stating "*For the first time in living memory employment has surged to over 95 percent with widespread reports of worker shortages in the private sector. Employers are looking for workers and not workers looking for jobs. How unusual is that?"* Interestingly, two major infrastructural projects are in the pipeline that will require not solely workers but workers that has the skillset that is aligned with the market needs. Notably, the sugar refinery which the PM told the nation "*The Government has signed an MOU that will expand sugar refining and broaden Belize's sugar exports to CARICOM and beyond*" and the modernization of the Port of Belize. Briceño said that "*The new Port of Belize targets phased investments surpassing $800 million*". This will include cargo facilities and a mainland cruise berthing facility.

Recently, the government tabled two loan motions that were read jointly in parliament, which would enhance employability. A loan from Taiwan's International Co-operation Development Fund (ICDF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) of $USD 14 million to improve labor force participation and Belize's employability.

But the successes were not without the challenges. And one of the challenges was in the agricultural sector, the fight against the Fusarium disease and another was the New World Screwworm (NWS) plaguing the cattle Industry. Monies have been identified in the fight against the Fusarium disease from various funding

agencies but the government has also committed to eradicating the NWS to which the PM said "*As we will defeat Fusarium, so will our livestock industry survive the challenge from the New World Screwworm*." Adding that "*The setback in sugar and livestock, and not so long ago, in citrus, have not broken the spirit of Belize's primary sector, whose year on year expansion has been impressive*." The diversification in the coconut industry is cause for sheer optimism for the agricultural sector with a potential estimate of $4 million in 2025 and an expected $10 million in revenue in 2026. Other nuggets of economic development in the making, mentioned by the Prime Minister, range from coconut and juice processing, and other juice processing, a corn meal and ramen processing plant, soybean meal, oil and animal feed, a plant expansion for poultry, the dairy processing of UHT milk and storage expansion and, also, chocolate manufacturing. Altogether, almost $120 million in investment and this is what the Leader of the Opposition, Tracy Taeger-Panton shamelessly calls lame and uninspired and the wannabe Leader Shyne wants to undermine. A caller to the Whip defines it so eloquently, "*UDP is not for development*" and the proof is in the 'Poison Chalice' and the thirteen years of misgovernance, incompetence and rampant corruption. There is No vision of development for the country and its people, just hollow UDP political rhetorical crassness. This is what is expected from the first female leader of the opposition on Independence Day.

Over the four decades and four years never has there been a more progressive and visionary government steering Belize's development. Hon John Briceño closed his address to the nation fittingly, that "*Not colonialism, nor unfounded claims; not economic cycles, nor geopolitical shocks; not hurricanes, nor droughts; not disease, nor pandemics; not momentary stumbles, nor missteps; none of these things or anything else can dent our strides to that higher plain, where with guidance of our Creator, every Belizean can enjoy the precious fruits of this Jewel, Belize.*" This includes the "*wuthless, rake and scrape, corrupt UDP*".

***We shall continue to preserve, continue to advance to broader prosperity.*" Hon John Briceño.**

By Hilly Bennett

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EDITORIAL

Belize @44: Stronger Together, Rising Forever

Glorious patriotism emanates from homes onto the streets and into the public squares as Belize celebrates four decades and four years of remarkable growth and progress. In the absence of a manual on how to raise a country, Belize has forged on, led by George Price, his followers and his mantra, Serve the People. And it has worked. John Briceño and team have risen with the people. Belize is now thriving as a nation of hope, a beacon of progress in the region. After electing different leaders in these 44 years, Belize has decidedly matured and strengthened. Today, while its people are educated at greater rates, with more access to health care, education, land, and housing than ever in history, have more jobs than ever before and has a population whose voice is listened to eagerly by Prime Minister Briceño and team, Belizeans still expect more—a sign of a country that is hard working at nation building in perpetuity.

This September, the Prime Minister presented The State of the Nation Address 2025 just after the National Day of Prayer, just before National Service Day and just before the grand Independence Day. This speech was a reminder that, despite the noise and negativity, the state of our nation is "fighting fit." The message for those who logged onto social media to dismiss or downplay Belize's progress: winning is here, and it is happening for all Belizeans, even for the detractors. In a time when the media is more powerful than ever, we must also call for responsible journalism. The role of the media is crucial in shaping public opinion and fostering national unity. Cherry-picking facts, spinning half-truths, and pushing rage-bait only serve to divide us. Belize deserves better. The story of our progress should not be drowned out by noise, negativity, fake news, or manufactured news. Want it or not, we are Stronger Together even in debate.

Prime Minister John Briceño brings transformation in due time, just as starter houses and lots programs that help "one family at a time". Nation-building is not about quick fixes but about steady progress, and we are seeing and feeling it today. Unemployment is at an all-time low of under 2 per cent, a remarkable achievement in statistics. Today, employers are seeking labourers, and the government is seeking to make more people join the workforce beyond new graduates. If you are willing to work, the opportunities are there, as the Prime Minister's address reminded us that nothing in life is just handed over to you. Yet, Belizeans are up to the challenge, as they are resilient, hardworking, and capable of seizing opportunities to grow the economy.

More purchasing power is on the horizon, as the minimum wage will be raised to $6 per hour, putting more money directly into the hands of workers who need it most. That is real progress for thousands of Belizeans who wake up each day and put in the work to provide for their families.

Regarding national security, the government has addressed the recent Budna abduction case with urgency and transparency. It is important to note that this was an isolated incident—not a reflection of daily life along or within our borders. The Prime Minister has pledged full accountability and ongoing updates. Belizeans can be confident that safety and sovereignty remain top priorities.

Citizenship has also sparked debate, especially regarding Guatemalans. Under Belizean law, Guatemalans are not eligible for citizenship through the normal process because their government refuses to recognise Belize's territorial integrity. This is a stance we have taken to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity. The cadre of 44 newly sworn-in citizens looked like the Internet—blazoned with global citizens and even an unborn child. Belize remains a melting pot, proud to welcome those who have lived here, contributed to our communities, and embraced our values. Opportunity is not handed out—it is earned.

The Prime Minister's report on a nation that is healthy and fighting fit proves that being stronger together actually allows our country to rise as a collective, perpetually.

As we celebrate Belize@44, let us remember that we are indeed Stronger Together, Rising Forever. Our collective progress and unity are the pillars of our nation's rise, inspiring hope for a brighter future.

en Español

Belice @44: Juntos Más Fuertes, Creciendo Para Siempre

Un glorioso patriotismo emana de los hogares hacia las calles y las plazas públicas mientras Belice celebra cuatro décadas y cuatro años de notable crecimiento y progreso. A falta de un manual sobre cómo levantar un país, Belice ha seguido adelante, liderado por George Price, sus seguidores y su lema, «Servir al pueblo». Y ha funcionado. John Briceño y su equipo han crecido con el pueblo. Belice prospera ahora como una nación de esperanza, un faro de progreso en la región. Tras elegir a diferentes líderes en estos 44 años, Belice ha madurado y se ha fortalecido de forma decidida. Hoy en día, aunque su pueblo tiene un mayor nivel de educación, más acceso a la sanidad, la educación, la tierra y la vivienda que nunca en la historia, más puestos de trabajo que nunca y una población cuya voz es escuchada con atención por el primer ministro Briceño y su equipo, los beliceños siguen esperando más, lo que es señal de un país que trabaja duro para construir una nación duradera.

Este mes de septiembre, el primer ministro presentó el discurso sobre el estado de la nación 2025 justo después del Día Nacional de Oración, justo antes del Día Nacional del Servicio y justo antes del gran Día de la Independencia. Este discurso fue un recordatorio de que, a pesar del ruido y la negatividad, el estado de nuestra nación está «en plena forma». El mensaje para aquellos que se conectaron a las redes sociales para desestimar o restar importancia al progreso de Belice: la victoria está aquí, y está llegando para todos los beliceños, incluso para los detractores. En una época en la que los medios de comunicación son más poderosos que nunca, también debemos pedir un periodismo responsable. El papel de los medios de comunicación es crucial para formar la opinión pública y fomentar la unidad nacional. Seleccionar datos, tergiversar medias verdades y alimentar la ira solo sirve para dividirnos. Belice se merece algo mejor. La historia de nuestro progreso no debe quedar ahogada por el ruido, la negatividad, las noticias falsas ni las noticias fabricadas. Lo queramos o no, juntos somos más fuertes, incluso en el debate.

El primer ministro John Briceño está llevando a cabo una transformación en el momento oportuno, al igual que los programas de viviendas y terrenos para principiantes que ayudan a «una familia a la vez». La construcción de una nación no consiste en soluciones rápidas, sino en un progreso constante, y hoy lo estamos viendo y sintiendo. El desempleo se encuentra en su nivel más bajo, por debajo del 2 %, un logro notable en las estadísticas. Hoy en día, los empleadores buscan trabajadores y el Gobierno trata de que más personas se incorporen a la población activa, además de los recién graduados. Si estás dispuesto a trabajar, las oportunidades están ahí, ya que el discurso del primer ministro nos recordó que nada en la vida se te entrega así nomás. Sin embargo, los beliceños están a la altura del desafío, ya que son resilientes, trabajadores y capaces de aprovechar las oportunidades para hacer crecer la economía.

Se prevé un aumento del poder adquisitivo, ya que el salario mínimo se elevará a 6 dólares por hora, lo que supondrá más dinero directamente en manos de los trabajadores que más lo necesitan. Se trata de un avance real para miles de beliceños que se levantan cada día y se esfuerzan para mantener a sus familias.

En cuanto a la seguridad nacional, el Gobierno ha abordado el reciente caso de secuestro de Budna con urgencia y transparencia. Es importante señalar que se trata de un incidente aislado, que no refleja la vida cotidiana a lo largo de nuestras fronteras ni dentro de ellas. El primer ministro se ha comprometido a rendir cuentas y a proporcionar información actualizada de forma continua. Los beliceños pueden estar seguros de que la seguridad y la soberanía siguen siendo prioridades absolutas.

La ciudadanía también ha suscitado debate, especialmente en lo que respecta a los guatemaltecos. Según la legislación beliceña, los guatemaltecos no pueden obtener la ciudadanía mediante el proceso normal porque su Gobierno se niega a reconocer la integridad territorial de Belice. Esta es una postura que hemos adoptado para proteger nuestra soberanía e integridad territorial. El grupo de 44 nuevos ciudadanos recién juramentados parecía Internet: repleto de ciudadanos globales e incluso un niño por nacer. Belice sigue siendo un crisol de culturas, orgulloso de dar la bienvenida a quienes han vivido aquí, han contribuido a nuestras comunidades y han abrazado nuestros valores. Las oportunidades no se regalan, se ganan.

El informe del primer ministro sobre una nación sana y en plena forma demuestra que ser más fuertes juntos permite a nuestro país crecer como colectivo de forma perpetua.

Mientras celebramos belice@44, recordemos que, efectivamente, juntos somos más fuertes y nos elevamos para siempre. Nuestro progreso colectivo y nuestra unidad son los pilares del auge de nuestra nación que inspiran esperanza para un futuro más brillante.

Belize's Sovereign Territory

"*The region and the world are watching*" – Commonwealth of 56 Nations

Statement by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize

Belmopan, September 16, 2025.

The Government of Belize is aware of a press release issued by the Government of the Republic of Guatemala concerning recent events at the Sarstoon River over September 10 – 13, 2025.

The Government forthrightly rejects the bold attempt of the Government of the Republic of Guatemala to present alternative facts in order to seek to distort the narrative of what transpired at the Sarstoon.

Belize has no doubt about its sovereignty over its side of the Sarstoon River. The unalterable fact is that the boundary between Belize and Guatemala was established in the 1859 Treaty as the mid-channel of the Sarstoon River. The Sarstoon Island lies squarely within Belize's sovereign territory. Furthermore, the 1859 Treaty provides that the channels of the river are equally free and open to the vessels of both countries.

In any case, Guatemala's claim is before the International Court of Justice for adjudication and final settlement. The Government of Belize looks forward to the vindication of its position. In the meantime, both Belize and Guatemala are obligated to refrain from any action that may exacerbate the dispute.

Belize further refutes Guatemala's assertions that the Belize Defence Force acted in any provocative manner. Publicly available videos clearly show the professional, calm, and restrained conduct of Belize's military personnel, of which Belize is proud.

The tensions of the past week underscore the urgency of a mechanism for cooperation in the Sarstoon and maritime spaces. Finalising such a mechanism would be a clear demonstration of the commitment of the two countries to peace and security in the area.

Belize is committed to continuing to work with Guatemala to strengthen and expand bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries.

Ends

CARICOM Statement on Border Incursions on Belize by Guatemala

"CARICOM calls on Guatemala to ensure that its military forces desist from illegally entering Belizean territory and from aggressive actions which will raise tensions between the countries, escalate into a military conflict, and endanger the safety of persons who use the Sarstoon River."

CARICOM has been informed by the Government of Belize that on several occasions during the period 10 -13 September 2025, elements of the Guatemalan Armed Forces (GAF) entered Belizean territory in the Sarstoon River which borders the two countries.

The GAF members illegally hoisted a Guatemalan flag on Belizean territory, attempted to ram a Belizean military vessel, and harassed and obstructed Belizeans from freely and peacefully navigating the Sarstoon River. These incursions and actions flagrantly violated Belize's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On each occasion, Belizean military officers firmly asserted Belize's sovereignty, territorial integrity and legal position, but acted with restraint and professionalism to prevent these aggressive and provocative actions by GAF officers from escalating.

CARICOM calls on Guatemala to ensure that its military forces desist from illegally entering Belizean territory and from aggressive actions which will raise tensions between the countries, escalate into a military conflict, and endanger the safety of persons who use the Sarstoon River.

CARICOM recalls the duty of Belize and Guatemala to refrain from any action which may exacerbate the dispute while Guatemala's Claim is before the International Court of Justice, and reiterates its call for both countries to urgently fulfil their commitment to design an effective mechanism of cooperation for the Sarstoon River and maritime spaces, with the assistance of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

CARICOM further recalls the commitment of Belize, Guatemala and all states of the Region to maintain the Caribbean region as a Zone of Peace.

CARICOM reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Belize.

COPPPAL Calls For Respect For Belize's Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

14th September 2025

The Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) has issued an alert regarding the recent escalation of the border conflict between Belize and Guatemala, following the illegal hoisting of a Guatemalan flag on Sarstoon Island and the presence of Guatemalan naval forces in Belizean waters. These acts have provoked heightened tensions between the armed forces of both nations.

In a message to the Prime Minister of Belize, the Honourable John Briceño, COPPPAL President Alejandro Moreno conveyed the full solidarity of the political parties that make up COPPPAL and called on the Government of Guatemala to fully respect Belize's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He further urged the withdrawal of Guatemalan naval forces from Belizean waters.

Mr. Moreno underscored that the territorial dispute-currently before the International Court of Justice-must be resolved through dialogue and in accordance with international law. He echoed Prime Minister Briceño's call for a peaceful bilateral engagement and encouraged President Bernardo Arévalo of Guatemala to accept Belize's invitation to meet, as a means of reducing tensions and finding a peaceful path forward.

The COPPPAL President also appealed to the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. António Guterres, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), H.E. Albert Ramdin, to use their good offices to help establish a table for dialogue between Belize and Guatemala, with the goal of restoring stability and preventing further escalation.

COPPPAL, which played a significant role in supporting Guatemala's peace process and Belize's independence in 1981-including close collaboration with Belize's founding father, Rt. Hon. George Price-reaffirmed its historical commitment to peace and dialogue in the region.

"*We are an organization that has always worked to promote peace in the region,*" said Mr. Moreno.

"*We are deeply concerned about the worsening of this conflict between two sister nations, and we will make every effort to support the construction of agreements that can help overcome this dispute*."

He recalled the important role COPPPAL played-alongside then-President José López Portillo and Belizean leaders Rt. Hon. George Price and Hon. Florencio Marin-in preventing armed conflict between Belize and Guatemala during the critical period following Belize's independence.

In closing, Mr. Moreno urged both nations to give peace a chance through meaningful dialogue and negotiation, as the region awaits the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

ENDS

In response to recent incursions by the Guatemalan military into Belize, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Hon Shirley Botchwey:

"I am deeply disturbed by recent reports that the Guatemalan Army hoisted their flag on Belizean territory, attempted to intercept a Belizean military vessel, and obstructed Belizeans from using the Sarstoon River.

Such actions threaten regional stability and risk undermining the growth of stronger ties between these neighbouring countries. They are unacceptable. I unequivocally condemn them. I commend the Belizean military for responding with professionalism and restraint on each occasion to avoid further escalation, while asserting Belize's legal position.

I join regional partners, including CARICOM, to urge restraint, and respect for international law and state sovereignty. I call for peaceful dialogue to resolve this territorial dispute. I also appeal to Guatemala to choose peace for the benefit of both nations and to refrain from actions which escalate tensions, particularly in the Sarstoon River area.

I encourage both countries to continue to seek a peaceful resolution through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and to promptly fulfil their commitment to creating a cooperation mechanism for the Sarstoon River and maritime areas with the support of the Organization of American States.

I urge all parties to intensify efforts towards constructive dialogue, respect for international agreements and lasting peace.

I reaffirm the position of Commonwealth Heads of Government and the Ministerial Committee on Belize, which includes support for the ICJ process, the development of the cooperation mechanism, and full adherence to confidence-building measures by the parties.

The region and the world are watching. **The Commonwealth continues to affirm the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Belize, a treasured member of our 56-nation Commonwealth family."**

Note: At the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Commonwealth Heads of Government unanimously expressed strong support for the ongoing ICJ process regarding Guatemala's territorial, insular, and maritime claims against Belize. They condemned illegal encroachments and urged Guatemala to respect and implement the existing confidence-building measures.

HRCU

BELIZE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION

Salutes every Belizean on celebrating 44 years of Independence

Happy Independence Day Belize

44 YEARS

Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price
(Jan. 15, 1919 - Sep. 19, 2011)

"HRCU also remembers and pays tribute to the father of the Belizean nation and Belize's National Hero."

For your convenience, please use our online services, ATMs, and our depository boxes located at our main office in Belize City and Independence Branch.

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Happy
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Stronger Together, Rising Forever
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HYDE
SHIPPING CORPORATION

CARTOON

FAKING IT FOR 7
HIP HIIP HURRAY
ALBERT ST
DEAN ST
THIS 10th THING IS NOT FOR ME
AFTER I BEAT SHE AT THE CON-VENTION, SENATOR AND BIG APPLE
TWO OF THE WORSE BELIZEAN
BLOSERS
POOF
NEWS

Prime Minister State of the Nation Address Hon. John Briceño

Belmopan, 16th September 2025

My Fellow Belizeans,

These are proud days of celebration, days that will culminate with the arrival of our country's 44th birthday on 21st September. Four decades and four years have served to consolidate our nation's unique place in the Caribbean and Central American Community, and in the world. In a great measure, these four decades and four years of ascendant nationhood was captured by today's citizenship ceremony. Forty-Four new Belizeans, born in distant lands, diverse in ethnicity and culture, but freely and enthusiastically choosing to pledge loyalty and life to this, our glittering Jewel. To be sure, the nation has traversed peaks and valleys since its birth in 1981 but never have our people veered away from those immortal values that befit a progressive society. Belizeans continuously embrace participatory democracy, free speech, opportunity based on merit, the right to a dignified living and believe in the goodness of our Creator. Only a few weeks ago, Belizean diplomats who represent our nation across the globe, gathered here in Belmopan for a periodic review. They sketched a picture of the world that is indeed more chaotic, more confrontational, more fractious than we have witnessed for two generations. In this tempest, what Belize represents, what our nation has been able to achieve since 1981 and especially since 2020, is, for sure, truly remarkable. And so, for the new Belizeans who just took their oath, and for all Belizeans, I delight in declaring that the **state of the nation is fighting fit**.

Belize today is more resilient and resolved to excellence and equality than ever before. More ready to seize this moment in the building of our nation, so rich with potential. In this fractious world, how tall Belize stands, when at the recent summit with the Presidents of our neighbours to the North and to the West, our three countries together pledged to jointly manage The Great Mayan Jungle Biocultural Corridor, a unique ecosystem that links our nations and that confers common purpose. Protecting patrimony that is humanity's and not just national, is a hallmark of Belize's contribution to the world.

Consider how tall we stand today when just five years ago, battered by misgovernance and pandemic, both our economy and our dollar were on the precipice of collapse. So high have we soared that for the third year running, the IMF's report card could hardly have been more positive: 2024 growth stood at 8.1 percent, with the first half of the year projected for further expansion. For the first time in living memory, employment has surged to over 95 percent, with widespread reports of worker shortages in the private sector. Employers looking for workers and not workers looking for jobs. How unusual is that? Hourly wage earners can soon expect another raise to $6 for the minimum wage, from an Administration that made good in our last term on the $5 per hour pledge. When that $6 per hour floor is established, this Government would be the first ever to almost double the guaranteed income of those whose wages are paid at hourly rates. Apart from the tens of thousands of hourly workers whose pockets are a little deeper today, there are the more than 15,000 public officers, teachers and security personnel who, as a consequence of Government's recent negotiations with the various unions, stand to gain over 100 million dollars in additional wages. When the phased salary increases are fully implemented, and including increments through to 2027, the additional wages will value 112.4 million dollars annually or 750 dollars per year on average for each of the public officers, teachers and security personnel. Had the almost miraculous repair and reconstruction of the public finances not been achieved by this Administration post-2020, clearly this size of a wage increase would have been impossible.

Today, not only is the Belize dollar backed by rock solid reserves and a value peg unmoved since 1949, but we have welcomed in the last few weeks a currency note refresh with our national heroes – George Price and Phillip Goldson – now adorning the cash we exchange daily. National heroes, national symbols and national attractions. The new banknotes, rolled out with notable efficiency, are but one additional symbol of Belize's strength and Belize's independence.

Now, nation-building success is never without setbacks. In agriculture, for example, the fusarium disease cut this last sugar cane season's production by 15.47 percent and sugar by 23.9 percent, while financial revenue is estimated to fall between 35 to 40 percent. And the next crop is expected to fall by another 15 to 20 percent in sugar cane production. Yet, the farmers, the millers and government are undeterred. The Sugar Cane Industry, so vital to the North, will defeat fusarium, with a collaborative plan that is well underway. Half a million dollars was invested in a successful experimental project and 2.5 million dollars was recently approved by Cabinet to treat cane fields. Already, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Economic Transformation has raised another 7 million dollars from CRESAP,1.5 million dollars from GCF through the 5C's and 7 million dollars from DFC which has rehabilitated over 6,000 acres of cane fields and an ongoing rehabilitation of another 35,000 acres. And, at the recent Investment Summit on Ambergris Caye, Government signed an MOU that will expand sugar refining and broaden Belize's sugar exports to Caricom and beyond. As we will defeat fusarium, so will our livestock industry survive the challenge from the New World Screwworm. Again, the Ministry of Agriculture, in close partnership with the private sector, has been tireless in its efforts to educate ranchers and to organise a response consonant with our regional allies. The setback in sugar and livestock, and not so long ago, in citrus, have not broken the spirit of ingenuity in Belize's primary sector, whose year on year expansion has been impressive.

As one example - coconuts, that burgeoning new sector, paints the picture of Belizean resilience. Today, 18,000 acres of coconuts are planted; just over 22 containers of coconut water and just over 700,000 nuts have been exported up to the end of July. The export of nuts and coconut water is expected to generate an estimated $4 million in 2025, when just a few years ago, this commodity was confined to domestic consumption. And in 2026, revenues from coconut is expected to surge to between $8 and $10 million as recently planted fields come into production, and the industry begins to export green nuts to Mexico. Because of the policies and support mechanisms for industry that transcends the halls of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Belize, over 170 Million dollars in strategic investments have occurred in agriculture value adding within the last 3 years.

To highlight a few:

One - Coconut and juice processing – A minimum of $60 million has been invested in new plant construction for fruit and other juice processing, fruit pulp processing, soursop and pineapple processing, coconut water and coconut oil processing, and for preparing fresh coconut for export.

Two - Corn and wheat flour and corn chips – Over $50 million with 2 new flour mills coming into operation, a corn meal plant, a ramen processing plant, and the Bowen corn chips snack plant

Three - Soybean meal, oil and animal feed - $32 million have been invested in soybean meal and oil refinery.

Four - Poultry – 23.2 Million dollars in plant expansion, upgrades and modernization, and in equipment for new product lines such as chicken ham, chicken sausages, boloney and other value-added products.

Five - Dairy sector - $6.8 million in UHT milk processing and dairy plant processing and storage expansion and

Six - Chocolate manufacturing- close to $5 million is being invested.

These investments, stimulated by crucial policy measures and support, have triggered expansion in the production of raw materials that are needed to supply this expanding processing capacity. Today, we are seeing significant increases in the production of corn, soybean, sorghum, coconuts, cacao and non-tropical fruits as well as expansion in the livestock and fishing sectors particularly cattle, shrimp and poultry. Our Administration continues to strive for key infrastructural enhancements.

Early next year, with the proper environmental plans and approvals in place, the Port of Belize expects to commence work on the upgrading of the marine access channel and harbour, to be followed by upgrades to the cargo facilities and a mainland cruise berthing facility. Accessibility to larger cargo vessels will improve trade efficiencies and benefit the Belizean consumer and exporter. And a cruise ship berthing facility will expand stay over time and elevate spending to higher, regional levels. The new Port of Belize targets phased investments surpassing $800 million.

Prowess on Belizean farms and infrastructure enhancements are matched by prowess in Belizean hospitality. Despite the challenges to global tourism and the unceasing waves of sargassum blighting our coastline, the overnight and cruise tourism sectors remain sturdy. Through July, 364,418 overnight visitors arrived to our shores, a 1.3 percent increase compared to the same period last year. This was complemented by 595,682 cruise passengers, a 5.3 percent increase. The airline routes linking Belize to the world are already extensive, and will be further expanded by adding new service on Air Canada from Montreal which provide that same European connection we have long sought and Spirit out of Fort Lauderdale, which will add a low cost option later this year. Hotel room expansion continues apace in all major destinations, and especially on Ambergris Caye and on the Placencia Peninsula. An estimated 621 new, quality rooms come online this year. And the improvements at the PGIA are progressing, including to the terminal building, the apron and the parking facilities.

The prospect of a link to the Tren Maya Routes and of connectivity between the Mexican Mayan Riviera and North Ambergris carry untold potential, if undertaken in a manner consistent with high environmental standards.

Of course, securing our cities, towns, villages, and our borders is crucial to instilling confidence in citizens, visitors and investors alike. By this reasoning, result-specific spending has been ongoing for personnel, training and equipment. The security forces, and especially the Police Department continue to push back against domestic and transnational crime, with gathering success. Major crimes have fallen by 3 percent this year and murders are down, by 20 percent, through the end of August compared to last year. With regard to the recent controversy surrounding citizen Joseph Budha, and his alleged abduction and re-appearance in Guatemalan custody, I wish to reiterate that this Government did not and would never sanction an extra-judicial extradition of any Belizean, no matter their station. The law of the land applies to every citizen alike and without prejudice. Wherever the police investigation leads into that matter, justice will be applied and justice will prevail. The proposed 13th Constitutional Amendment has also generated vibrant debate in the recent months. Let me underscore what I and colleague Ministers have explained: any change to the Constitution is weighty, not a frivolous exercise. And that's why the various consultations have been extensive. But, I underscore as well that our pledge to employ every lawful strategy and tactic to supress gang violence will be relentless. So long as innocent, law abiding citizens fear for their safety and the safety of their children, we will not be swayed by naysayers who conjure imaginary victims of state overreach while the real victims of the criminals are overlooked.

Plan Belize 2.0 is firing on all cylinders so that thrust requires power, it requires electricity. To bolster production and keep up with demand, a new agreement was signed just a few weeks ago for the generation of 15 MW of solar power. By the end of this year we expect to sign 4 more agreements totalling an additional 80 MW of solar power. This is in fulfilment of our pledge to enhance clean power generation and buttress domestic power production. These new solar plant projects will come online by the end of 2026 and represent an investment of over $140 million.

And so, as together we lock arms and march past the signpost of 44, I am energized by our nation's vigorous health, by its dynamic transformation.

Cuatro décadas y cuatro años han servido para consolidar el lugar único de nuestra nación en la Comunidad Caribeña y Centroamericana, y en el mundo. Los beliceños ejercemos constantemente la democracia participativa, la libertad de expresión, la oportunidad basada en el mérito, el derecho a una vida digna y creemos en la bondad de nuestro Creador. En un mundo, a menudo caótico, lo que Belice representa, lo que nuestra nación ha logrado desde mil novecientos ochenta y uno y, especialmente, desde el dos mil veinte, es, sin duda, verdaderamente extraordinario. Hemos alcanzado tal altura que, por tercer año consecutivo, el informe del Fondo Monetario Internacional, difícilmente podría haber sido más positivo. Me complace declarar que el estado de la nación se encuentra en óptimas condiciones para afrontar los retos del futuro

On this sliver of Planet Earth, four hundred thousand-strong, blessed with wealth untold, animated by reverence to freedom, diversity, peace and equity, we shall continue to persevere, continue to advance to broader prosperity. Not colonialism, nor unfounded claims; not economic cycles nor geopolitical shocks; not hurricanes, nor droughts; not disease nor pandemic; not momentary stumbles nor missteps; none of these or anything else can dent our stride to that higher plain, where with the guidance of our Creator, every Belizean can enjoy the precious fruits of this Jewel, Belize.

Belize forever!
Belize for all!
Que Viva Belice!
I thank you.

National Day of Prayer 2025

September 14 - Belize's Church leaders of all denominations joined the Prime Minister John Briceño, other national political leaders, and citizens to celebrate a mass of thanksgiving at the Wesley Methodist Church in Belize City.

This annual National Day of Prayer Mass reverently ushers in the 44th anniversary of Belize's Independence, in a spirit of unity, reflection, and gratitude.

Atlantic Bank

Wishes everyone a safe & happy

Independence Day

All branches and drive thrus will close on
Saturday, September 20, 2025
and reopen on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

For your shopping convenience, use your Atlantic Bank
Visa/Mastercard Debit or Credit Cards.

For quick cash, use any of our ATMs or AtlaXpress
merchants located countrywide.

www.atlabank.com

Honoring Patriots Who Built Belize

The 2025 Tribute to Belizean Patriots was held at the 230-year-old historic St. John's Cathedral on September 17th, where a grateful nation gathered to recognize the lives and legacies of 19 extraordinary Belizeans. These men and women, through sacrifice, vision, and service, helped shape the Belize we celebrate today.

The Order of Distinction

This year's highest honor, The Order of Distinction, was awarded to two Belizeans whose names are synonymous with service and nation-building.

Edison Seferino Coleman (Posthumously)
Known affectionately as "Sefe" or "Tio Eddie," Coleman's voice became a soundtrack of Belizean life. Through La Programma de Tio Eddie and The Ed Cole Saturday Show on Radio Belize, he informed, entertained, and united the nation. Coleman's work transcended broadcasting—he used the airwaves to spotlight culture, music, and pressing social issues. Recognized with both national and international accolades, his influence stretched far beyond Belize, yet he never stopped serving his people.

"Coleman's enduring legacy as a broadcaster and cultural advocate reminds us that art and communication are the lifelines of a united nation."

Gerard Coleman accepting for his late father

Antonio "Tony" Zabaneh
From humble beginnings in Independence Village, Zabaneh built a life of enterprise and leadership that transformed southern Belize. As the first Chairman of the Banana Growers Association, he helped establish Big Creek Port, creating a foundation for national economic growth. Beyond business, "Mr. Tony" invested heavily in sports and youth development, sponsoring teams that reached national recognition.

"Zabaneh's legacy is one of perseverance and love for community—proof that true wealth lies in service."

Meritorious Service Awardees

Seventeen Belizeans were also recognized with the Meritorious Service Award for their lasting contributions across medicine, education, environment, culture, and community service.

Escandar Masaud Bedran (Posthumously) revolutionized agriculture, ranching, and tourism with ventures like Tiger Run Farms, Pine Lumber Company, and the San Ignacio Hotel—pillars of enterprise and integrity in Cayo.

Dr. Mario Estradabran, Belize's first Forensic Medical Examiner, gave over 37 years to medicine and justice, pioneering forensic credibility in the courts and training generations in science and compassion.

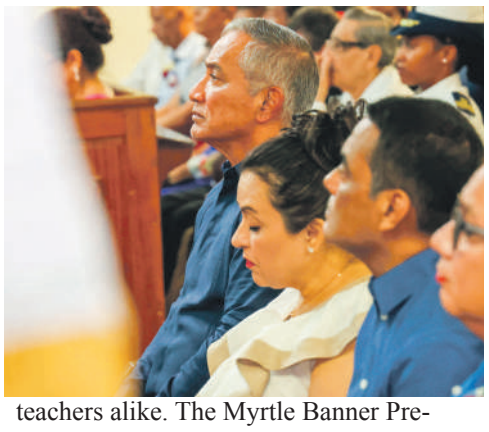
Dave Edward Forman elevated education in Toledo as a teacher, mentor, and Director of Claver College Extension, opening doors for countless students.

Lionel "Chocolate" Heredia (Posthumously) turned from fisherman to environmental crusader, establishing Swallow Caye Wildlife Sanctuary and inspiring marine conservation nationwide.

Elden "Stone Jam" Hyde, a pioneer of Belize's dancehall movement, transformed music culture and launched the careers of celebrated DJs, keeping Belize's nightlife and artistry vibrant.

Godfrey Sosa Jr. and Jamie Lee Usher revolutionized STEM education, leading Team Belize to global gold in robotics. Together, they turned innovation into national pride, making robotics an official sport.

Myrtle Banner, an educator for nearly three decades, nurtured children and



teachers alike. The Myrtle Banner Preschool stands today as a living memorial of her devotion.

Dr. Jane Crawford advanced veterinary medicine while mentoring young veterinarians and safeguarding wildlife, proving care extends beyond humans to the natural world we share.

Gudelia Pop Cowo (Posthumously), a beloved midwife and healer in Toledo, delivered generations of babies and preserved medicinal knowledge that enriched her community.

Cynthia Gabb Guild shaped Belize's nursing education system, mentoring hundreds of nurses and setting national standards in health care.

Paul Walker, co-founder of Wildtracks, dedicated his life to protect-

Continued Pg11

4th Creative Youth Summit
Charts Music's Future

September 12 - The 4th Annual Creative Youth Ideas Summit unfolded today at the House of Culture in Belize City, placing Belizean music and culture at the heart of national reflection. Unlike the colorful festivities that usually define September, this summit is designed to pause, listen, and exchange ideas—particularly with young Belizeans. This year, the focus was on the power of music, its heritage, and its potential as a sustainable livelihood for artists.

Past summits have grappled with pressing issues like crime and mental health. But this year's central question was simple: *How often do you think about Belizean music?* From there, the discussion explored how music reflects our identity, tells the stories of our ancestors, and preserves traditions such as brukdown and Garifuna drumming.

For many panelists, however, the main issue is not the creation of art—it is the marketing of music as a career. While Belize is bursting with raw talent and cultural diversity, the challenge lies in giving artists access to platforms that allow them to earn a living.

Kevin Chen, Communications Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that youth must be central to this conversation. He described music as "*woven into the fabric of Belizean society*" and vital for both cultural preservation and tourism. Yet he also underscored the need for musicians to expand onto digital platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube while leveraging social media to amplify their reach.

Panelist Seth Cambranes of the Belize Music Project stressed that the future of Belizean music must represent the country's cultural melting pot. He noted that while Belize boasts an eclectic mix of traditions and genres, these remain "*sectioned off*" from one another. The goal, he said, should be to modernize and merge Belizean sounds into something globally recognizable, without losing the authenticity of their roots.

Ten panelists participated, including academics from institutions like Belize Music Project and St. John's College Junior College. Also, present were the Belize Music Project, the Belize City Youth Shadow Council, Galen University, and the Belize Youth Movement. They offered ideas ranging from more structured mentorship for young artists to government-backed showcases to private sector partnerships that could elevate local music beyond Belize's borders.

The summit also revealed a broader truth: Belizean music is not just about entertainment. It is about economic empowerment. Music is an exportable product that can fuel the tourism industry, build international recognition, and generate new income streams for Belizeans. But success depends heavily on domestic and diaspora support. Artists can only thrive if their music is streamed, purchased, and promoted both at home and abroad.

Government Backing Via the Orange Economy

Recognizing this need, the Government of Belize is actively advancing the Orange Economy—a business model centered on creativity, ideas, and intellectual property. Initiatives include:

- Belize Investment Summit 2023, which focused on the Orange Economy, attracting investors to the creative sector.
- Amendments to the Fiscal Incentives Act, providing tax breaks and incentives for MSMEs, including those in arts, music, and culture.
- A National Roadmap for the Creative Sector, supported by UNESCO and the EU, aimed at strengthening evidence-based policies.
- Capacity-building programs and overseas exchanges for artisans and musicians to sharpen their skills.
- Investment in digital services such as animation, software, and digital art, positioning Belize to compete globally while supporting local talent.

As one participant summarized, "***It's not the lack of talent—it's the lack of visibility and investment.***" This year's summit, therefore, became both a reflection and a call to action: a reminder that Belizeans everywhere have a role in elevating the industry, while government continues to build structures to ensure the arts can also mean business.

With its theme "**Belizean Music: Our Roots and the Future**," the summit highlighted that while music is a vessel for history and culture, it is also a tool for innovation and progress. If supported properly, it can create sustainable livelihoods, inspire pride, and place Belize firmly on the world stage.

As the discussion closed, it was clear that the summit had achieved its purpose—not just to reflect, but to envision a future where Belizean creativity is celebrated, marketed, and sustained through the opportunities of the Orange Economy.

-END-

Continued from pg 9

ing manatees, primates, and ecosystems, leaving a legacy of conservation and stewardship.

Felicia Nuñez, a cultural leader in Stann Creek, preserved Garifuna traditions through her advocacy, service, and published works that enshrine culinary heritage.

Emith Young, Kriol cultural guardian, ensured the Sambai drum beat on in Gales Point and beyond, creating pathways for youth to connect with their roots.

Joy Ross, an Anglican educator for over 50 years, helped shape early childhood education while serving as Justice of the Peace and community leader.

Dr. Cynthia Gillet Thompson revolutionized teacher training, establishing national standards and distance education programs that still guide Belizean classrooms today.

Sylvia "La Roca" Gillett, admired for resilience and compassion, worked across government and with volunteer organizations like the Red Cross, serving Belizeans during crises and calm alike.

A Nation United in Tribute

At the ceremony, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño reflected on the meaning of patriotism:

"A patriot is one who vigorously supports their country and defends it against enemies. Today, those enemies may not carry arms, but they invade our homes, our bodies, and our minds. These honorees remind us of the power of love for country—and the duty to serve."

Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam added:

"*They have shown that love of country isn't something done once a year.*"

Carrying Forward the Legacy

The 2025 Tribute to Belizean Patriots was not only about honoring the past but also inspiring the future. Each recipient's story—whether in classrooms, hospitals, farms, sound systems, or conservation areas—demonstrates the ways Belizeans transform sacrifice into service.

As Belize marks its 44th year of independence under the theme "Stronger Together, Rising Forever," these honorees embody the spirit of resilience and unity. Their lives echo the reminder that patriotism is not a ceremony—it is a daily call to action.

From broadcasters to builders, midwives to ministers of culture, the 2025 honorees prove that service is Belize's strongest foundation.

PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Public Service, Governance, and Disaster Risk Management

Expresses Condolences to the Family of 4-year-old Kyra Bennett

Belmopan, Belize September 16, 2025.

The Ministry of the Public Service, Governance, and Disaster Risk Management extends heartfelt condolences to the Bennett family on the tragic loss of four-year-old Kyra Bennett, who lost her life in a tragic house fire this morning in Belize City.

We stand in solidarity with the family during this time of immense grief and sorrow. Losing a loved one, especially a child, is an unimaginable pain, and our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate this difficult period.

The Ministry also acknowledges the swift response of the Belize National Fire Service and the ongoing investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

As a people, let us continue to support the Bennett family and all those affected by this tragedy, and may young Kyra's memory live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

May her soul rest in peace.

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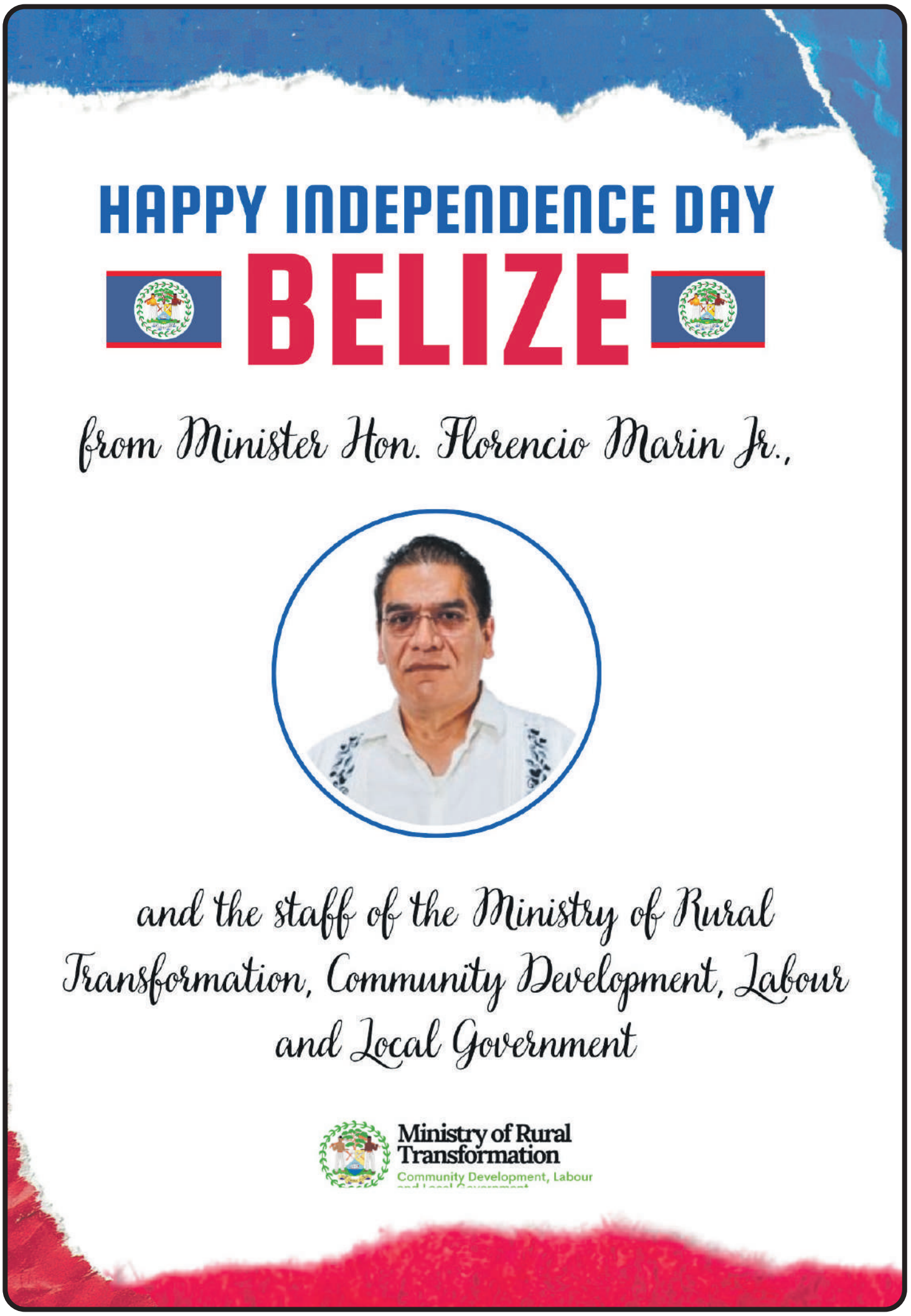

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE
GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
Happy Independence Day Belize!
On this 44th Anniversary of our Independence, the
Ministry of The Public Service, Governance and
Disaster Risk Management, together with Minister
Hon. Henry Charles Usher, join the people of Belize
in celebrating the pride and progress of our nation.
BZE@44
STRONGER TOGETHER
RISING FOREVER

NEMO
"Preserving Life and Property"

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Happy Independence Day Belize!

As Belize marks its 44th Independence Anniversary, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and its team proudly join the nation in celebrating our pride, unity, and progress.

As we honor this milestone, NEMO reminds the public to remain informed, prepared, and safe throughout the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

BZE@44

STRONGER TOGETHER

RISING FOREVER

Upgrades to Police Station in Caledonia

RENOVATION WORKS COMPLETED AT CALEDONIA POLICE SUB-STATION

Improvements have been made at the Caledonia Police Sub-Station in the Corozal District as part of ongoing efforts to enhance officer welfare and improve working conditions. The renovation works included:

*Full interior and exterior painting of the building

* Repairs to damaged windows

* Cleaning of the surrounding area

* Roof repairs to address long-standing issues

The Minister of Home Affairs Kareem Musa, CEO Sharole Carr and ranking officers of the police department visited the Sub-Station in Corozal District while addressing welfare concerns of the officers.

These upgrades are part of the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries' commitment to strengthening law enforcement infrastructure in rural communities and ensuring that officers have a safe and functional environment in which to serve. (post)

This upgrade follows upgrades to the Raccoon Street Police Station, and Kontiki, announcements of new Stations for Orange Walk, Belmopan HQ, and Bella Vista. Citizen security is a priority in the John Briceño administration.

Plogging on OW

"jogging while picking up trash"

Yesterday morning, the Orange Walk Town Council hosted the 10K Race(normal grueling run), and the first-ever 3K Plogging, with over 70 participants joining in — a wonderful success!

10K Race Results

Men's Category: 1st – Luke Mai, 38:10 | 2nd – Reghan Sosa, 38:52 | 3rd – Marcus Novelo, 39:40

Women's Category: 1st – Carmen Castilla, 49:15 | 2nd – Faridi Gongora, 56:50 | 3rd – Edith Ku, 1:01:38

3K Plogging

For the very first time, we introduced a plogging activity — jogging while picking up trash — to help keep our town clean in the lead-up to the September Celebrations. Families, school clubs, scouts, and community members of all ages joined in. A total of 32 participants split into four teams to clean along the 3km parade route, competing to see which team could collect the most litter in 40 minutes.

Team C won the competition with 65.3 lbs of trash collected, and together all teams gathered an amazing 150.9 lbs in total!

Participants shared how much they enjoyed the "game-like" competition and expressed hopes to see the activity continue next year.

This time, the initiative was also supported by Plogging Japan, who kindly prepared certificates of appreciation for the plogging runners.

The event wrapped up with smiles all around — a true success for our community.

September is filled with more exciting events to come, so let's continue celebrating while keeping Orange Walk Town clean and beautiful! (Post)

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
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To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

September 2025 Celebrations

BTB Annual September Criterium

September 14 - The Annual September Criterium kicked off in front of the Belize Tourism Board office and powered through the Albert & Regent Street Circuit. Riders gave it their all for an exciting day of racing across multiple categories—Elite, Masters, Club Masters, Women, Junior/Youth, High School, and Kids.

There were many categories and you can follow https://www.facebook.com/belizecycling to see the details. Some winners are Jaylen Briceño, Open Elite; Devyn Majors, Juniors; Ahmaad Cherrington, Male Youth; Patricia Chavarria, Women; and Chelsy Castillo and Stephan Pelayo, High School Male and Female, respectively. Think of a category and there was a champion in an event that brought out ALL levels of Belize's cycling enthusiasts.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants! This annual event is hosted by the Belize Tourism Board in partnership with the Cycling Federation of Belize

GEF6 PROJECT

VACANCIES NOTICE

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

The Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEF6) Project within the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management (MSDCCSWM) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is calling for qualified and interested individuals for the following positions:

➢ **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Safeguards Specialist:**
Responsible for ensuring effective project monitoring and evaluation, compliance with safeguards, and contributing to knowledge management efforts. The primary goal is to track project progress, assess impacts, and ensure adherence to environmental and social safeguards.

➢ **Gender Specialist:**
Tasked with responsibility for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the project as well as supporting the MSDCCSWM in promoting gender inclusive approaches in its programs and projects with specific focus on the GEF.

➢ **Driver:**
To provide support to the Project Manager and staff on a day-to-day basis as required.

Project Background:
The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management (MSDCCSWM) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing a project entitled "Integrated management of production landscapes to deliver multiple global environmental benefits." This project aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land/water management into production landscapes in Belize, specifically targeting the Belize River watershed (BRW). This initiative, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP TRAC, seeks to reverse the fragmentation of forest ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and land degradation within production landscapes in the BRW. The project emphasizes gender equality and inclusive participation, recognizing the crucial role of women in agricultural development and sustainable natural resource management. This project will deliver global environmental benefits (GEB) using a participatory approach that ensures the equal distribution of benefits among men and women, with 1,700 people directly benefiting from the project.

To request detailed Terms of Reference that encompasses respective requirements and qualifications, scope of works, duties and responsibilities, and submission procedures, email: pm.gef6@environment.gov.bz with cc to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for submissions: October 3rd, 2025

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.

Tender: **A consultancy to update the National Environmental Guidelines for Overwater Structures for Belize (2010).**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites suitable **Consultants** to submit proposals for the review and update the National Environmental Guidelines on Overwater Structures. (2010) **This Consultancy is for a period of sixty (60) working days over a period of three (3) months from the official start date.**

The general objective of this consultancy is:

i. To strengthen the existing 2010 guidelines in addressing current and projected environmental risks and development pressures on the marine environment.
ii. To harmonize and align the guidelines with updated national strategies, policies, plans and legislation, regional frameworks, and international best practices including those environmental conventions such as UNCLOS, CBD, MARPOL, Ramsar, etc.
iii. To integrate climate resilience measures, marine biodiversity conservation principles, pollution prevention and waste management control standards and technological innovations and sustainable building practices.
iv. To strengthen the monitoring, compliance and enforcement framework with measurable indicators.
v. To improve the clarity, accessibility, and practical application of the document for regulators, developers and communities

Scope of Work:

The consultancy will undertake a comprehensive assessment, including but not limited to:

i. Review and assessment
ii. Stakeholder engagement
iii. Technical Integration
iv. Monitoring Compliance and Enforcement
v. Guidelines Development and Validation.

For full Terms of Reference which lists required Qualifications, Required Methodology & Deliverable Timeline, and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at envirodept@environment.gov.bz with a copy to eiaunit@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: October 3, 2025 no later than 10:00 a.m.

"The Port of Belize expects to commence work on the upgrading of the marine access channel and harbour, to be followed by upgrades to the cargo facilities and a mainland cruise berthing facility.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025

OPM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

"Hourly wage earners can soon expect another raise to **BZ $6** for the minimum wage.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025

OPM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Equal Health for All

CALENDAR

Activities from September 23 - 30, 2025

Wellness Week 2025

September 23
TEAM SPIRIT, HEALTHY START
Focus: Workplace unity & physical activity.
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

September 24
MIND MATTERS
Focus: Mental health & stress relief.
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

September 25
FUELING OUR FUTURE
Focus: Nutrition Awareness
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

September 26
STRONGER TOGETHER
Focus: Building Supportive Relationships
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

September 29
SAFETY & SELF-CARE DAY
Focus: Personal Safety & Preventive Care
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

September 30
OUR WELLNESS OUR FUTURE
Focus: Reflection & Commitment
"Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future."

Working Together, we Build a Healthier Future.

PAHO · INCAP · SICA · SECRETARÍA EJECUTIVA COMISCA · unicef for every child

National 44th September Celebrations

National Day of Prayer

PM Briceño attends service at Methodist Church

Children Leading Our Nation

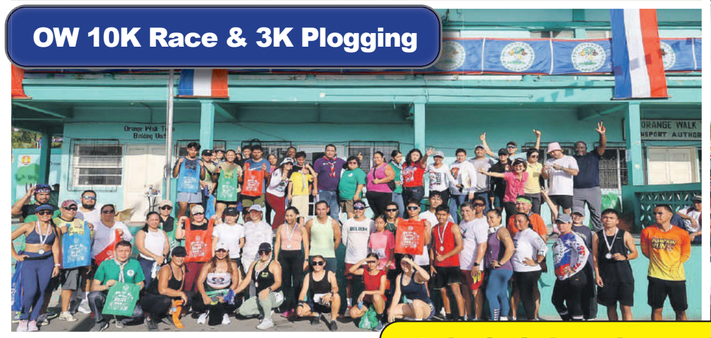
Children's Rallies

Belize City children and BCC lead the way

4th Annual Belize Creative Youth Ideas Summit

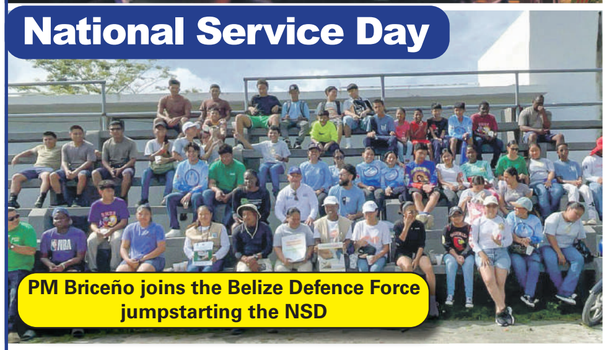
Fire Engine-led Motorcades

OW 10K Race & 3K Plogging



Expo 2025

National Service Day



PM Briceño joins the Belize Defence Force jumpstarting the NSD

Sporting Spirit

CA Games Torch welcomed through Belize City

Thank You! 2025 Corozal Carnival A Success!

More Carnival

Corozal Town Council's Wet Fete Crowd

10th Celebrations, All over Belize

right on track

'Vamos Bien in 2025'

vamos bien

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Facebook outage.

Instagram down.

TikTok banned.

IF YOUR BUSINESS ONLY LIVES ON SOCIAL MEDIA, IT DISAPPEARS TOO.

Smart businesses don't build their house on rented land. They use social media to drive traffic to their website—their permanent digital home.

Where does your business stand?

idealab studios DIGITAL MARKETING Call. 223-6386

Stakeholders Unite to Map Climate Information Needs Across Key Sectors

September 11, 2025 - The National Meteorological Service of Belize, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) Belize, has successfully concluded a three-part national workshop series on Landscape Assessment for Needs for an Effective Climate-Resilient Early Warning System (CREWS). The sessions were held in Belize City on September 5, in Cayo on September 8, and concluded on September 9 in the City of Belmopan.

The workshops brought together representatives from government institutions, academia, utilities, farming communities, and disaster risk managers. Over 50 participants from 30 different stakeholders collectively examined how climate forecasts and early warning information can better guide decision-making in agriculture, water management, energy supply, and disaster preparedness.

Through interactive group work, plenary discussions, and sector-specific mapping exercises, participants identified critical decision points, such as planting schedules, irrigation planning, flood preparedness, and infrastructure management, that are affected by weather and climate hazards.

They also provided recommendations on the types of climate information needed, the most useful lead times, and how to strengthen trust and usability of climate services across sectors.

Outcomes from the workshops include:

• A decision point framework outlining when and how climate information is most valuable to different sectors.

• Recommendations to tailor seasonal forecasts, hazard outlooks, and multi-hazard early warnings to stakeholder needs.

• Strengthened collaboration between farmers, institutions, and service providers.

• Contributions to the enhancement of Belize's multi-hazard early warning system through user-informed design.

Speaking on the importance of the workshops, representatives emphasized that the outputs will directly inform the National Meteorological Service's work in improving climate services and ensuring they meet the needs of users at all levels.

The CREWS workshop series underscores Belize's ongoing commitment to building resilience and safeguarding livelihoods against the increasing risks of climate variability and extreme weather events.

- END -

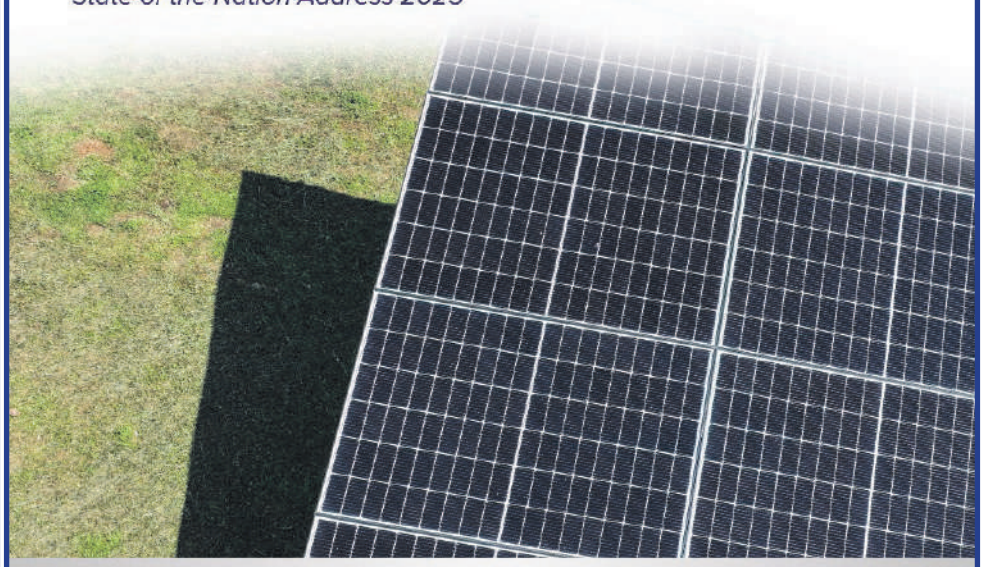
"Our Administration continues to strive for key infrastructural enhancements.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025

OPM OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

"New solar plant projects will come online by the end of 2026 and represent an investment of over $140 million.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025



OPM OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

"The Belize dollar is backed by rock solid reserves and a value peg unmoved since 1949. Our currency note has been refreshed with our national heroes, national symbols and national attractions.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025

PM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

"Additional wages will value **112.4 million dollars annually or 750 dollars** per year on average for each of the public officers, teachers, and security personnel.

Hon. John Briceño
Prime Minister of Belize
State of the Nation Address 2025

PM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

HAPPILY INDEPENDENT SINCE SEPTEMBER 1981

BELIZE AT 44

STRONGER TOGETHER, RISING FOREVER

FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MoEST

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

TRACY CRASS BEHAVIOR IN THE HOUSE

PM TO LOO *"DO YOUR HOMEWORK!"*

By Hilly Bennett

In what could be considered the most progressive and forward-looking session of parliament, members of the House of Representatives met at the George Price Center for Peace in Belmopan on Friday 12th September 2025. Sessional papers and several important bills and loan motions were presented.

Firstly, through the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Government of Belize, Minister Orlando Habet introduced a bill to develop a Climate Change Carbon Market Policy, inclusive of the Blue Carbon Framework, which will act as a guide to navigate the carbon market. As Minister Habet explained it is the very first climate bill in Belize, *"For years Belize has been on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Hurricanes are stronger than ever, drought and diseases are threatening our farmers and seas are rising to claim our coast."* Habet emphasized that it is no longer distant warnings but lived realities for the Belizean people. Adding, *"And yet, through it all our people have shown strength, they have shown innovation and hope. This bill is our response. It gives Belize for the very first time the legal and institutional foundation to govern our climate future with strength and with certainty. It sets in place structures that will allow us not only to protect our land, our waters, and our people but also to benefit from the new opportunities of the global carbon market in a world where climate finance is tied to readiness. Belize will now stand ready, credible and confident."*

Regrettably, during the thirteen years of a woeful, incompetent UDP administration, the government failed to tap into the potential carbon market to realize the environmental and economic benefits for Belize, notwithstanding, forums were conducted, by various experts highlighting those benefits during the Dean Barrow reign in government. Let's Meister Eckhart *"The price of inaction is far greater than making a mistake."*

The second bill the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) Subscription Bill 2025, which will increase Belize's share capital to four thousand series B shares, was brought before the House for approval. There is no existing legislation that allows the Government to enter into this type of transaction and it is necessary for parliamentary approval. Prime Minister, John Briceño indicated that the decision will give Belize more influence and faster access to emergency funding. CABEI has been a long-standing partner in the country's development and has assisted Belize on many occasions. PM Briceño noted that the institution assisted Belize during the hurricanes Eta, Iota and Lisa, CABEI assisted Belize with USD 2 million in aid and some 16 million over the years.

However, shameless Tracy rose in her objection, veiled in political rhetorical crassness, with the usual UDP nonsensical questions about the cost-benefit and risk analysis. As Honorable Francis Fonseca characterize it as *"An opposition that objects for the sake of objecting. Absolutely no substance behind the objection. Just wanting to be a negative voice, in the face of something that is entirely based on the national development objectives of this country and this government."* He pointed out that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Transformation did the requisite due diligence, regarding the subscription to increase the share capital of CABEI. Tracy, who has not been able to consolidate her leadership with the rank-and-file UDPs, mentioned that the debt is in spiral, insinuating that the government is burdening the Belizean taxpayers with more debt. Again in utter failure to grandstand before the honorable house, she was reminded by Minister Fonseca that it was this government, the Briceño administration, that brought a spiralling economy to heel from a whopping debt-to-GDP of 130 per cent to 60 per cent, restoring investors' confidence in the Belizean economy upon taking office, after the unprecedented victory in November 2020. PM Briceño sharply, chastised the Leader of the Opposition telling Tracy ***"Do your homework"!*** Asking her *"Where were you when they were 'bad spending' up the Petro Caribe Money on pibil and tacos"*. There was no return on investment for the marginalized, the elderly and the disenfranchised youths of Belize. Under her watch, the Boledo was given to Brads with a pittance in return and there was a thundering silence from Shameless Tracy. Transfer Tracy, you have no moral authority to speak about corruption. You were part and parcel of the Barrow UDP corrupt administration.

Two other important loan motions which were permitted by the Speaker of the National Assembly to be read jointly, were the loan from Taiwan's International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF) and the Inter-American Bank (IDB) amounting to USD14 million to improve the labour force participation and Belize's employability. The purpose of the loans is to strengthen the public employment service to promote access to labor markets, targeting women, youth and migrants and also to increase the supply of relevant skills in alignment with labor market needs. The total amount of the loan is USD14 million with a million dollars in grant funding from the IDB. Prime Minister Briceño noted that the employment rate is at an all-time low of 2.1 per cent with 44,000 individuals finding employment opportunities, with Belize's underemployment rate at 1.8 per cent.

Labor is defined as the main driver of GDP per capita over the last five years by the Central Bank of Belize (CBB). Briceño also noted that female participation is very low but if the participation is increased it could represent an increase in GDP by 20 per cent or over a billion dollars more. Interestingly, it was the economist Victor Bulmer Thomas in his book The Economic History of Belize who wrote *"Employment has been the Achilles heel of the Caribbean development model in the last half century"*. Adding *"The labour market in Belize is far from satisfactory and that has been true for almost the entire period since independence"*. However, the unemployment and underemployment rates have been reduced under the Briceño government.

Lee Mark Chang, a member from the Mesop constituency rose from an uninformed or more nonintellectual position to object to the loan motion. While Tracy lauded the move by investing in training saying *"In this context, we welcome concessional financing that permits and promises to strengthen the public employment services and provide a market-driven training."* Chang's criticism was based on the fact that the Prime Minister was gloating that employment was above 95 percent. Hence, there was no need to invest in the labor force. As the PM proffered *"These loans, the aim is to improve the service that promotes access to the labor force of the general population. By one, providing specialized support for women, youths and migrants. And two, increase skills supply through relevant and quality focus priority sectors."*

There are many determinants to the long-term sustainability of the Belizean growth rate, including, the rate of investment through borrowing is one. Another is the skill level of the labor force. As Bulmer-Thomas suggested, *"For far too long there was an assumption in Belize that the workforce was sufficiently skilled."* Today, it is clear that this is not so in the competitive marketplace and there is an urgent need to upskill the labor force by developing the technical vocational skillsets.

It is absolutely clear that the opposition or remnants of an opposition will continue to bring the Honorable House into disrepute with their mudslinging and nonsensical diatribe. However, the Government of Belize, the John Briceno administration will continue to lead, advancing the country and its people to that broader prosperity where each and every Belizean can benefit from a progressive and visionary PUP-led Government of Belize.

Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

NO 5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan
(501) 822-2679
(501) 802-2663
(501) 802-2297
(501) 802-0671
info@labour.gov.bz
www.ruraltransformation.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Consultancy Services – Phase I: Legal and Institutional Gap Analysis of the Labour Act

PURPOSE:
The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), invites qualified consulting firms to submit proposals to undertake a comprehensive review of the Labour Act, Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020.

This Proposal is for Phase I of the Comprehensive Review of the Labour Act.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY:
To conduct a comprehensive legal and institutional gap analysis of the Labour Act and related labour laws, identifying inconsistencies, gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for reform, and to provide recommendations aligned with ratified ILO Conventions, CARICOM Model Laws, and national development priorities.

SCOPE OF WORK:
The selected consulting firm will:
- Review the Labour Act and related laws
- Assess institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms
- Benchmark against International Labour Standards and CARICOM model laws
- Conduct stakeholder and political economy analysis
- Present preliminary reform recommendations

DURATION:
Four (4) months – December 2025 to March 2026

QUALIFICATIONS
Company Profile Requirements:
The consulting firm must be a registered entity with experience in legal reform, labour law, or institutional analysis in Belize or within the CARICOM region. It should have a proven track record of successfully delivering law and policy reform projects in collaboration with government ministries, international organizations, or regional bodies. The firm must also demonstrate the capacity to manage multi-disciplinary teams and deliver results within tight deadlines, while maintaining sufficient financial and administrative resources to ensure effective project execution.

Key Experts Required:
1. **Team Leader / Senior Labour Law Expert**
- Law degree (LLB or higher) with at least 10 years' post-qualification experience in the relevant subject area.
- Expertise in employment law, labour legislation, and legal reform in Belize or the CARICOM region.
- Strong knowledge of International Labour Standards.

2. **Policy Reform Specialist/Economist**
- Master's degree in Public Policy, Economics, Law, or related field.
- Minimum 7 years' experience in institutional analysis, governance, public sector reform, and labour market assessment.
- Good understanding of CARICOM Model Laws, Belize's legal and institutional systems, and basic economic modelling.
- Strong knowledge of Belize's economy and regional integration matters.
- Proven ability to conduct consultations, facilitate social dialogue, and manage political economy assessments.

GUIDANCE ON SUBMISSON OF PROPOSAL:
- Email submitted to: labour.comm@labour.gov.bz
- Subject email: Consultancy Services – Phase I: Legal and Institutional Gap Analysis of the Labour Act
- Attachment 1: Technical Proposal in password protected PDF format
- Attachment 2: Financial Proposal in password protected PDF format
- Submission deadline: 15th October 2025 at 4:00 pm

Note 1: Only complete submissions received by this deadline will be considered.

Note 2: Further guidance on submission requirements is provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR), which can be requested from the LabourDepartment at the same email address.

MoEST>>>BNTU

Twenty-Nine Teachers Awarded Scholarships

September 12 - The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), under the leadership of Hon. Oscar Requena, proudly joined hands with the Belize National Teachers' Union (BNTU), led by National President Mrs. Nadia Caliz, to reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing the teaching profession.

As part of the Joint Statement signed on January 23, 2025, eleven in-service teachers recommended by the BNTU were awarded tuition scholarships. In addition, fifteen teachers received scholarships through a prior BNTU agreement, and three others were recognized as winners of the Miss BNTU Pageant—bringing the total to twenty-nine deserving teachers receiving scholarships.

These awards will now be added to the Ministry's active repository of scholarship opportunities for teachers, further strengthening support for professional growth.

The ceremony was attended by MoEST's Senior Management Team, the BNTU National Executive, the scholarship recipients, and their families—making it a true celebration of teachers' dedication and achievement.

Congratulations to all awardees! The Ministry wishes you every success in your pursuit of higher education. (post)

Discussing School Hair Policy and Enforcement

September 12 - Officials from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), led by Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Education, met with stakeholders to discuss growing concerns surrounding school hair policy and the enforcement of related rules.

The dialogue, held at the Ministry's Headquarters in Belmopan, included Chief Executive Officer Dian Maheia, and Deputy Chief Education Officers, Cecilia Ramirez-Smith and Terri Wesby Langford. Stakeholders present were YaYa Marin Coleman of the UBAD Educational Foundation; Nadia Caliz, President of the Belize National Teachers' Union; Keesha Young Flowers, Executive Secretary; Marshall Nunez, Disabilities Desk Coordinator; and Cynthia Pitts of the Human Rights Commission.

The meeting provided a platform for open discussion on challenges raised by students, parents, and educators regarding varied policies and practices related to students' hair. All parties agreed on plans to address the matter collaboratively during the course of this academic year, including reviewing existing rules, developing clearer guidelines, and ensuring that policies are applied fairly and respectfully. It is the Ministry's view that school rules and policies on personal grooming and professional dress should be promoted in an environment that supports the development of essential life skills and values without infringing on basic human rights of Belizean students.

The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to inclusive, equitable education free from discrimination and to continued dialogue with partners to resolve issues affecting students and schools.(release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Five's Glaring Bias

Dear Editor,

We have had enough of 7 spitting out anything that can hurt Belize to spite the government and now the Lord's 5 is doing the same….but with an army of bots that cannot hide their robotic comments.

After any report by the PUP government there is bound to be mass UDP leaning commentary. This scepticism can be noticed on 5's post. It is like throwing honey out around an ant's nest.

Advertising on 5 is like supporting the UDP. PUP people should boycott that support.

Such is the level of Belize's democracy. When such skeptcim comes from a supposedly independent media it is obvious that they are not independent. The Lord's 5 anti-government stance is obvious as they headlined their presentation on the Prime Minister's Budna report "Glaring Omissions." More obvious was at the State of the Nation address; not a word had been said and the 5 army was busy bitterly commenting about nothing. Don't they realize that people can see the obvious UDP rhetoric. You guys are dumb.

The omissions are so glaring that only five bloggers can see it in their blinded Bashcroft bent on attempting to skew the people's point of view. If five has all the answer they should help the UDP with suggestions as they have none.

So 7 manufactures and 5 blogs to death. Go ahead people, look at 5's posts…they post and minutes later it has 10's of obvious prepared comments…its nasty and only me and their army read their comments.

Belize is busy working.

Jeez Five...as opposed to 7 can probably survive without ads as the bitter Lord should be able to foot the bill easily.

Get over it Lord; Your Waterloo is set... retire...Belize does not need you interfering in its media nor anywhere.

--Belizean Observer

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
Ministry of Finance
Belmopan, Belize

Procurement Number: 01-2025

TENDER FOR: Security And Surveillance Services

LOCATION: 5th Floor Eleanor Hall Building
Lake I Blvd., Belize City, Belize, C.A

DESCRIPTION: Tenders are invited for 24 hours Security and Surveillance services for the Treasury Department countrywide

PERIOD: For a period of two (2) years (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2027)

DETAILS:

The successful tenderer will be expected to provide the following services countrywide for Treasury Department:
Countrywide security services, armed and unarmed, with the Belize City office having twenty-four hours security and our Sub-Treasuries during working hours.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS:
Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Security and Surveillance Services November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2027 for Treasury Department" to the "Treasury Department, 5th Floor Eleanor Hall Building, Lake I Blvd., Belize City, Belize".

Tenders will be opened and evaluated at: "Conference Room, Treasury Department, 5th Floor Eleanor Hall Building, Lake I Blvd., Belize City, Belize"

The Following Dates Apply:

Deadline for Clarification period:	23/09/2025 12:00:00 Noon
Deadline for Receipt of Tenders:	29/09/2025 10:00:00 AM
Date for the Opening of Tenders:	29/09/2025 10:00:00 AM
Maintain Tender (in days):	27

CONTACT PERSON:

For additional information, clarifications, kindly contact Ms. Sharlene Jones at 280-6062 or 611-0401, Sharlene.jones@gobmail.gov.bz.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:

• All tenderers or their representatives are free to attend the opening of tenders.

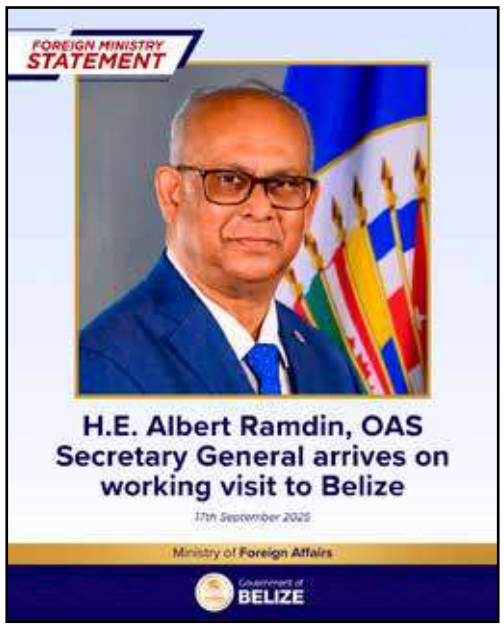
• Costs incurred for visiting the facilities to be maintained and preparation of the tender bid are the sole responsibility of the tenderer.

• Tenders must include 12.5% General Sales Tax (GST).

• Tenderer must provide evidence of technical capacity to carry out the works substantiated by previous works, certificate of compliance with Social Security laws, Income Tax and GST laws.

• The lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

Visit to Belize by Secretary General of the Organization of American States



Belmopan, September 17, 2025.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, H.E. Albert Ramdin, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), has arrived in Belize today to participate in the Ministry's annual Diplomatic Week.

During his visit to Belize, Secretary General Ramdin will deliver the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade's Lecture Series on the topic **"Mobilising Financing for Security: How the OAS Can Support Investment in Hemispheric Security"** on the evening of September 19, 2025. The lecture will be livestreamed on the Ministry's social media platforms.

The Secretary General will also address a public and private sector dialogue on the morning of September 19, which seeks to bring together Belizean private and public sectors in dialogue with external partners to identify opportunities of trade and investment. Thereafter, the Secretary will hold a press conference to brief the media on his visit.

While in Belize, Secretary General Ramdin will hold bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, Hon. John Briceño, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture and Immigration, Hon. Francis Fonseca. Secretary General Ramdin will also visit the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone.

The Secretary General will be in Belize from September 17–20, 2025.(release)

SUCCESSFUL HEALTH CLINIC HELD IN PORT LOYOLA

Hon. Usher – JICA – MoHW – YMCA

September 13 - On Saturday many residents of Port Loyola and other Southside divisions in Belize City welcomed the opportunity to accesses free health care services at the YMCA on Faber's Rd in Belize City.

The main sponsor of the event was Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the support Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for Port Loyola /Minister of State for Public Utilities, Energy, and Logistics. Coordinator for the Health Clinic was Mrs. Marvia Dubon.

Services offered included weight, pressure, and glucose check-up as well as health education, and medication. The clinic was historic because although JICA, which is headed by Takahiro Moriya Resident Representative JICA Belize, has held numerous health clinics in the rural areas of the country, it's the first time the organization has sponsored a health clinic for persons who experience challenges in accessing medical care as often as necessary due to financial constraints in an urban community in Belize.

Many thanks to Dr. Clara Cuellar, Manager YMCA, for making the facility available for the clinic. Thank you also to the sponsors as well as the doctors and other persons whose voluntary service made the health clinic a tremendous success.

Foreign Direct Investment Matters

Belize At WTO's Public Forum 2025: Enhance, Create, Preserve

Belize joined Latin American and Caribbean counterparts at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum, where experiences on investment facilitation were shared under the leadership of H.E. Sofia Boza, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, and H.E. Sung-yo Choi, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. Narda Garcia, Chief Executive Officer in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministries of Investment and Civil Aviation, participated alongside Vice Ministers and Ambassadors Nicolás Lebed of the Republic of Ecuador, H.E. Matthew Wilson of the Republic of Barbados, and H.E. Manojd Hindori of the Republic of Suriname.(release excerpt)

With over a billion in FDI since the plan-Belize government has been serving the people, Belize is definitely flourishing with Best Practice examples. Additionally, the recent 3rd Belize Investment Summit of the Briceño administration promises another billion plus in FDI going forward. So as Belize was well represented by Office of PM and Investment CEO Narda Garcia in Geneva at a World Trade Organization Public Forum, Belize was showcased exactly in that field…FDIs.

Anabel Gonzalez, VP for countries & regional integration @the_IDB: "Strong presence of Latin America and Caribbean countries to share experiences on investment facilitation, at the @WTO PublicForum.

Under the leadership of Sofia Boza(Chile) and Sung-yo Choi(South Korea), viceministers and ambassadors Nicolas Lebed(Ecuador), Narda Garcia(Belize), Matthew Wilson(Barbados) & Manojd Hindori(Suriname) sent a clear message: #FDI matters for growth & a regional platform could help countries share best practices and learn from each other.

At @the_IDB, we are ready to support - stay tuned! Hope also to continue working with partners." (X post)

"Foreign Direct Investment #FDI is a powerful source of growth, innovation, and jobs for our region. That´s why countries are calling for a regional platform on investment facilitation: to share best practices, strengthen capacities, and multiply impact.

At the Inter-American Development Bank, regional cooperation is at the core of work. Stay tuned for more news to come soon and new partners to work with!" (Linkedin post)

FDI is recognized as a powerful driver of economic growth, innovation, and job creation in the region. To amplify these benefits, countries called for the establishment of a regional platform on investment facilitation to enable the exchange of best practices, strengthen institutional capacities, and maximize the impact of investments across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) underscored its commitment to supporting regional cooperation in this area, signaling future opportunities to deepen partnerships and broaden participation.

Belize remains committed to working with regional and international partners to foster investment facilitation and advance shared prosperity through strengthened cooperation. (release)

CABEI Central American Bank for Economic Integration

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SPECIALIST - CABEI-CS-002-2147/2025
BELIZE INTEGRAL SECURITY PROGRAMME (BISP)

September 12th, 2025

Background

The Government of Belize (GOB) is implementing a security programme with the overall objective of contributing to improving the quality of life of Belizeans and supporting regional efforts that seek to combat crime. The key goal of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP) is to strengthen citizen security by providing support to those institutions directly engaged in maintaining national security.
The BISP will allow for the improvement of infrastructure and the provision of equipment for the Belize Defence Force (BDF), Belize Police Department (BPD), Belize Coast Guard (BCG), and the National Forensic Sciences Service (NFSS). Infrastructure works will include new construction as well as refurbishment and improvement of existing buildings. Surveillance and monitoring, mobilization, and specialized technical equipment will also be supplied to these institutions.
The BISP is financed by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) through a loan facility with complementary input activities funded by the GOB. The Ministry of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance. (MET) is the executing body (EB) for the programme with policy direction and oversight provided by a program steering committee (PSC) comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Economic Transformation, the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, and the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security. Operational and administrative support for the BISP is being provided by a programme executing unit (PEU).
An Environmental and Social Specialist is required to support the Programme
Executing Unit (PEU).

1. Scope of Works

To tackle climate challenges and vulnerabilities while ensuring that surrounding communities are not negatively impacted, CABEI recognizes the importance of employing an Environmental and Social Specialist during the project's implementation. The E&S Specialist will play a crucial role in identifying, addressing, and mitigating any environmental and social risks that may arise.

The Environmental and Social Specialist will be responsible for overall environmental and social aspects of the project and for coordinating, implementing actions, monitoring, and reporting on the project's compliance with the environmental and social standards and commitments, including those outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) developed for each construction site, the national environmental laws and the mandatory measures and conditions established under CABEI's SIEMAS Plan. The Specialist will ensure that all activities are aligned with CABEI's Environmental and Social Performance Standards and that timely and evidence-based reporting is provided to support the Bank's supervision and verification processes.

The Environmental & Social Specialist will undertake the activities outlined below:

1. Review and update existing environmental and social management plans to ensure their compliance with CABEI's regulations and national environmental laws.
2. Coordinate and prepare the quarterly Environmental and Social Monitoring Reports required under the SIEMAS Plan of CABEI, ensuring that all mandatory deliverables are submitted in accordance with the timelines and content stipulated in the Plan. This includes documenting regulatory compliance, ESMP implementation, labour and community safety conditions, stakeholder engagement, grievance management, and cultural heritage protection measures.
3. Develop and/or update environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) for approved construction sites.
4. Develop and implement environmental and social management and monitoring mechanisms to continuously identify, assess, mitigate, and track the environmental, social, health, and occupational safety impacts of project activities. These mechanisms shall be consistent with CABEI's Environmental and Social Safeguards and will guide field supervision, contractor oversight, and the preparation of compliance reports.
5. Collaborate with procurement personnel to ensure that bidding documents incorporate the environmental and social safeguards required by the SIEMAS Plan, as well as the applicable national legislation on environmental protection and labour rights.

2. Supervision and Reporting:

The Environmental and Social Specialist will work under the general guidance and report directly to the Project Coordinator. The post will be based at the Office of the Project Executing Unit in Belmopan.

3. Academic Qualifications:

The consultant must submit documentation to support experience and academic qualifications.

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, Project Management, or a closely related field.
- Master's degree in environmental science, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, Project Management, Social Management, or other relevant directly related to Project Management.
- A minimum of seven (7) years of experience at any level in the environmental and sciences or related fields.
- A minimum of five (5) years of specific experience in environmental and social safeguard management for infrastructure projects.
- Experience in at least two (2) infrastructure projects financed by the World Bank, the IDB, the CABEI, or other external financing institutions, involving the monitoring and oversight of environmental and social components, in accordance with internationally recognized environmental and social standards
- Experience in projects with environmental and social risk assessment, monitoring, or management, preferably in infrastructure projects.
- Knowledge of written and spoken Spanish would be an asset.

4. Terms

The Environmental and Social Specialist will be selected by a competitive process in accordance with the Policy for the Procurement of Goods, Works, Services and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Norms for Application (DI-52/2020 / PRE-40/2021). The duration of the consultancy is 24 months. The post will be for one year, in the first instance, subject to an annual review and evaluation, for the remaining 12 months that the project is in the execution stage. Salary will be commensurate with the requirements of the post and the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.

Interested eligible Consultants may obtain further information and a complete Terms of Reference from the Programme Executing Unit of the BISP. Requests should be addressed to adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz, copied to projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz, enviro_social__specialist.bisp@met.gov.bz during office hours of **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time from Monday to Friday;** or you can visit the Ministry of Economic Transformation's webpage, www.met.gov.bz, to download the Terms of Reference. Additionally, the consultancy announcement can be found on the Ministry of Finance's Procurement Portal webpage https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/. Further information can be received by calling the phone number: **828-6106**

Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is **Monday, October 6th, 2025.** Expressions of interest along with Resume and supporting documentation (Degrees, Certificates, etc.) must be sent via electronic mail (email) to projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz and copied to procurementofficerii.bisp@met.gov.bz or via direct mail or hand delivered to the address indicated below by **9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 6th, 2025.**

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
1904 Constitution Drive, 2nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.

Ref: CABEI-CS-002-2147/2025

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED!!

National Service Day Early Start

PM Joins the Echo Company in Clean-Up and Tree Planting Initiative

National Service Day is on September 19, the Anniversary of the passing of the Father of the Nation, George Price. The entire nation remembers his motto, Serve the People, on that day by doing just that, SERVING.

With an early head start, on 13th September 2025, members of Echo Company, First Infantry Battalion proudly joined the Belize for the National Service Day 2025 Clean-Up Campaign and Tree Planting Initiative, held in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District.

The event, hosted by the Belize Youth Movement – Orange Walk Chapter and sponsored by the Department of the Environment, aimed to promote a healthier environment, strengthen community spirit and patriotism, and instill civic pride in young people.

Echo Company soldiers worked alongside the Prime Minister John Briceño, civilians, local organizations, and youth volunteers in clearing garbage, planting trees, and beautifying the Trial Farm Park area.

Everyone's involvement reflected the BDF's ongoing commitment to national development, environmental stewardship, and support for community-based initiatives.

This effort not only showcased civil-military cooperation but also aligned with the BDF's broader mission of contributing positively to Belizean society beyond traditional defence duties.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **John Wiltshire** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Escape Lounge & Bar"** located at # 6062 Urban Ave., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xiao Xiong** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Kim Fonto Shop"** located at # 7386 Antelope Street Extension, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zach A. Fitzgibbon** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Hadie's Shop"** located at # 41 Victoria St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sheng Wang Chen** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"K.C. Shop"** located at # 78 Barrack Rd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Vacancy:

J & Y Cement Block Factory is seeking to hire an Electrical Technician. Visit the office at # 122 Mahogany Street Ext., Belize City, Belize District or call 611-4443 to arrange for an interview.

CRFM
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM SECRETARIAT (CRFM)

STAFF VACANCY

Applications are invited from interested and suitably qualified residents of Belize to fill the following position in the CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM) SECRETARIAT with assigned duty station in Belize City, Belize:

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Full details of the position may be obtained by accessing the following website – crfm.int or scanning the QR code below.

Applications in English Language with full curriculum details, including nationality, work experience, educational qualifications, summary of professional skills and/or expertise, language proficiency, coordinates (including e-mail addresses) of three referees (at least two of whom must be familiar with the applicant's work), and other relevant information, should be addressed to the Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, Belize City, Belize, and sent by email to jobs@crfm.int copied to secretariat@crfm.int.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 10 October 2025.

OWT Councilor to Receive Pan African American Leadership Award

The Orange Walk Town Council is proud of their fellow Councilor Doreth Pascascio Griffith who has been selected to receive the Pan African American Leadership Award, PAALA 2025 for Belize.

She is to receive the PAALA 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to promoting African Women's Creativity, inspiring African Youth and advancing African Women's development globally.

She is being recognized among the Top 25 Outstanding Leaders for the Year 2025.

The PAALA Award is an initiative of the African Women in Leadership Organization, AWLO, to recognize women of African descent.

We are all proud to have any of our Belizean women recognized for their achievements. In this planBelize 2.0 sphere our women are excelling locally and internationally.

Congratulations from the heart to Mrs. Pascascio Griffith. Our readers can look forward to more information and highlights of this presentation.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Isidoro Patt** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"I.P.S. Grocery Shop"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jordan J. Casimiro** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"J & J's Kitchen"** located at # 43 Church Street, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xing Xiao Li** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Roses Fast Food"** located at # 127 Benque Viejo Rd., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Isidoro Patt** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"I.P.S. Grocery Shop"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Selvyn E. Myvett** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"P & S Shop"** located in Georgeville Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Franklin Syrowatka** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Vanilla Hills Lodge"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gurjit Mangat** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Gilly Landing"** located in Esperanza Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gurminder Mehmi** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Eva's Seafood & Staekhouse"** located at # 26 Burns Ave., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rosanna Depaz/ Andrew Haylock** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Gully Grill"** located on Joseph Andrews Dr., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Nelson L. Rubio/Georgiana N. Ruiz** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Red Roof Sports Bar and Grill"** located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ydahlia Metzgen** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Calico Jack's"** located in El Progresso Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Edilto M. Romero** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Cantina La Adictiva"** located at #7 18th St., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Michael Preston** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Midas Resort"** located on Branch Mouth Rd., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Carlos Tzib** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Amigos Bar"** located in San Antonio Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

Elections and Boundaries Commission
Old Land's Building, Market Square
City of Belmopan

12th September 2025

NOTICE

REFERENDUM ACT

CHAPTER 10

CAYE CAULKER VILLAGE REFERENDUM

NOTICE THAT A POLL WILL BE TAKEN

NOTICE is hereby given to the Voters of **Caye Caulker Village in the Belize Rural South Electoral Division** that a Poll will be taken for the Referendum now pending for the said Caye Caulker Village and that such Poll will be opened on the **8th day of October, 2025** at the hour of seven in the forenoon and kept open till the hour of six in the afternoon in the following Polling Stations established in Caye Caulker Village in the Belize Rural South Electoral Division:

POLLING AREA NO. 34

POLLING STATION: CAYE CAULKER R.C. SCHOOL, CAYE CAULKER VILLAGE

of which all persons are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

The counting of votes commences immediately after the closing of polls at the Caye Caulker R.C. School, Caye Caulker Village on the 8th day of October 2025.

and that the QUESTION is as follows:

Question	
"Should the Government of Belize pass legislation to create a responsible, regulated, and taxable legal cannabis industry on the island of Caye Caulker, with a portion of the revenue going directly for the benefit of Caye Caulker and its residents?"	**YES**
	NO

GIVEN under my hand at this **12th** day of **September 2025.**

(SIGNED)
(ANTHONY MAI)
Returning Officer for Caye Caulker Village

Cordial chat with Ambassador from the EU H. E. Erja Askola

A BOOST to Tourism - Celebrating 3 New Airplanes for Tropic Air

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

BELIZE @ 44

STRONGER TOGETHER, RISING FOREVER

On this 44th Independence Day, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding Belize's seas and strengthening our coastal communities.

Ministry of Blue Economy & Marine Conservation

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
Belmopan City

BY ORDER of the **Government of Belize**, Licensed Auctioneer **Mr. Fitzgerald A. Joseph** will auction for sale the following unserviceable vehicles on site at the **Ministry of Works Compound**, located in Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize on Saturday the **27th September 2025**, and will commence at **9:00 a.m. Viewing is from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Please note that the Ministry of Finance has the authority to withdraw any of the vehicles from the sale before the auction date. Kindly note that no Customs Duties are payable.**

No.	Year	Make	Model	Type
1	2019	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
2	2020	GMC	Terrian	SUV
3	2016	Ford	Explorer	SUV
4	2006	Toyota	Tacoma	Pickup
5	2008	Isuzu	D-MAX	Pickup
6	2013	Hyundai	Tucson	SUV
7	2015	Nissan	Frontier	Pickup
8	2005	Mitsubishi	Nativa	SUV
9	2011	Hyundai	Tucson	SUV
10	2004	International	Tow truck	Tow truck
11	2012	Ford	Explorer	SUV
12	2015	Nissan	Urvan	Van
13	2015	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
14	2012	Toyota	Landcruiser	SUV
15	2013	Isuzu	D-MAX	Pickup
16	2022	Nissan	Frontier	Pickup
17	2007	Mitsubishi	L-200	Pickup
18	2012	Volvo	SUV	SUV
19	2014	Hyundai	Tucson	SUV
20	2016	Isuzu	MUX	SUV
21	2019	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
22	2015	Toyota	Landcruiser	SUV
23	2017	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
24	2007	Toyota	Rav4	SUV
25	2015	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
26	2019	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
27	2016	Mahindra	Mahindra	Pickup
28	2018	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
29	2014	Ford	Ranger	Pickup
30	2000	Mitsubishi	SUV	SUV
31	2018	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
32	2008	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
33	2012	Ford	F-150	Pickup
34	2012	Nissan	Navara	Pickup
35	2014	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
36	2008	GMC	4500	Ambulance
37	2017	Foton	View Van	Van
38	2018	Foton	View Van	Van
39	2019	Nissan	Urvan	Van
40	2016	Ford	Ranger	Pickup

No.	Year	Make	Model	Type
41	2009	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
42	2009	Toyota	Hiace	Van
43	2016	Golf Cart	Golf Cart	Golf Cart
44	2011	Golf Cart	Golf Cart	Golf Cart
45	2006	Golf Cart	Golf Cart	Golf Cart
46	2023	Hino	Hino	Truck
47	2011	Chevy	Express	Van
48	2014	Nissan	X-trail	SUV
49	2012	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
50	2011	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
51	2014	Isuzu	D-MAX	Pickup
52	2017	Great Wall	Wingle	Pickup
53	2011	Mitsubishi	L-200	Pickup
54	2014	Mahindra	Pickup	Pickup
55	2004	Toyota	Hilux	Pickup
56	2014	Volkswagen	Amarok	Pickup
57	2003	Toyota	Land cruiser	Pickup
58	2018	Grand Tiger	Grand Tiger	Pickup
59	2016	Foton	View Van	Van
60	2019	Foton	View Van	Van
61	2020	Foton	Tunland	Pickup
62	2011	Mitsubishi	Montero	SUV
63	2010	Dodge	Attitude	Car
64	2007	Toyota	Hiace	Van
65		Ford	F-150	Pickup
66	2020	JAC	Pickup	Pickup
67	2018	Mazda	BT-50	Pickup
68	2019	Mazda	BT-50	Pickup
69	2021	JAC	Sunray	Van
70	2017	Chevy	Equinox	SUV
71	2009	Volkswagen	Touareg	SUV
72	2019	Ford	Everest	SUV
73	2010	Isuzu	Dmax	Pickup
74	2012	Mazda	Pickup	Pickup
75	2017	Ford	Ranger	Pickup
76	2010	Isuzu	D-Max	Pickup

Assorted Items	
1	A/C Units
2	Office Chairs

FITZGERALD A. JOSEPH
Email: palas105@yahoo.com
TELEPHONE 601-2039

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXTERNAL AUDITOR SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

In November 2021, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Government of Belize (GOB) finalized the single largest debt conversion agreement through the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and the Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA). These agreements referred to as the Belize Blue Bond has enabled the country to reduce its debt burden and increase its long-term investment in Ocean conservation for 20 years and beyond with a commitment to protect up to 30% of Belize's ocean, in addition to other conservation commitments, beneficial to the country's economy and people.

As an indication of the Government's highest commitment to fulfilling the provisions of these agreements, the Prime Minister established the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP) within the Office of the Prime Minister with the principal objective to ensure that the Government of Belize (GoB) meets all commitments outlined in the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA) in collaboration with the Belize Blue Investment Company (BZBIC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

In 2022 as stipulated by the BLA and CFA, a Conservation Fund was established known as the "Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future". The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (Belize Fund) has two (2) funding mechanisms:

(i) Government Strategic Allocation (GSA)
(ii) Grant Awards Program (GAP)

The GSA was earmarked for the Government and its agencies to support the achievement of the milestones and conservation commitments included in the CFA and is coordinated by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP). As part of the GSA's objective the BBFP is tasked to successfully implement the commitments outlined within the BLA and CFA.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE AUDIT

The objective of the external audit is to express a professional audit opinion in accordance with International Standard on Auditing ISA 800 on whether:-

The consolidated financial statements of the BBFP in all material respects, are in conformity with the Terms and Condition of the agreement signed with the Belize Fund; and provide the basis for preparation of those financials statements and are established to reflect the financial transactions in respect of the Organization and that it maintains adequate internal controls and supporting documentation for transactions.

3. Scope of the Audit

The audit will be carried out in accordance with the standards specified above and will include such tests and verification procedures as the auditors consider necessary under the circumstances. In conducting the audit, special attention should be paid to the following:

a) Carry out tests of transactions as are necessary, in order to obtain an understanding of the accounting system, to assess its adequacy as a basis for the preparation of the financial statements and to establish whether adequate records have been maintained as required by the applicable rules of the Belize Fund;
b) Confirm that funds have been used in accordance with the applicable rules of the concerned donors, annual workplan with due attention to economy and efficiency, and that they have only been used for the purposes for which they were intended for and in accordance with the conditions under which the funding was provided;
c) Confirm that Goods and services financed have been procured in accordance with sound procurement procedures spelled out in the Belize Fund's Procurement Guidelines;
d) Confirm that all necessary supporting documents, records and accounts have been kept in respect of all activities; and
e) Confirm that the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with acceptable accounting practice and give a true and fair view of the financial position at the end of the financial year.

The above-defined scope does not in any way restrict the audit procedures or the techniques that the auditor may wish to use in forming an opinion on the Financial Statements being audited.

4. FINANCIAL

Auditors must certify, express an opinion on each of the following:

(i) Statement of Expenses for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025
(ii) Statement of Cash Position (cash and bank balances of the project) reported by the project as of 31 March 2025
(iii) Statement of Assets and Equipment held by the project as at 31 March 2025

Auditors must indicate the risks associated with their findings and provide a categorization by risk: High, Medium, or Low.

5. AUDIT REPORT

The auditor is expected to present two types of reports: An opinion on the Financial Statements prepared by the Organization and a Management Letter.

i. The opinion on the Financial Statements shall contain: A professional opinion on the financial statements and supporting schedules as regard to their true and fair view; The International Audit standards that were applied;

ii. The Management Letter, among others, shall contain:

a) Comments and observations on the accounting records, systems and controls that were examined during the course of the audit;
b) Specific deficiencies and areas of weakness in systems and controls and make recommendations for improvement;
c) The degree of compliance of each of the development partner funding agreement and give comments, if any, on internal and external matters affecting such compliance;
d) Matters that have come to their attention during the audit which might have a significant impact on the implementation and sustainability of the funding;
e) Report on the implementation status of recommendations pertaining to previous period audit reports; if any;
f) Areas of risk that need to be flagged out to management; and
g) Any other matters that the auditors consider pertinent to be brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

Ideally, the Management Letter will include reactions/comments from the BBFP on the weaknesses noted by the auditors.

The audit firm is required to submit a draft audit report by 15/12/2025 and a final signed audit report by 15/1/2026.

6. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Firm's relevant experience in similar assignments

- A minimum of at least two (2) assignments of similar nature and complexity, satisfactorily completed over the last five years

Firm's responsiveness to the TOR and adequacy of the proposed implementation methodology

- Technical Approach and Methodology
- Proposed Workplan

Firm's qualifications and experience of key staff

Key expert 1: Team Leader

- Qualifications: Minimum of a master's degree in accounting, Finance, Economics or related field
- General experience: Minimum of Eight (8) years' experience in the auditing field. Familiarity with the Procurement Procedures of different IFI's would be an advantage
- Specific experience: Having completed at least one (1) similar assignment in the last 8 years

Key expert 2: Senior Auditor

- Qualifications: Minimum of a bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Economics or related field
- General Experience: Minimum of five (5) years' experience in the auditing field
- Specific Experience: Having completed at least at least one (1) similar assignment in the last 5 year

Key expert 3: Junior Auditor

- Qualifications: Minimum of a associate's degree in accounting, Finance, Economics or related field.
- General Experience: Minimum of two (2) years' experience in the auditing
- Specific Experience: Having completed at least at least one (1) similar assignment in the last 2 years

Other:

Copy of Valid Letters of Good Standing from:

1. the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry
2. The Belize Tax Service
3. Belize Social Security Board

7. SUBMISSION

Qualified and interested Auditing firms are invited to submit their proposal with updated Curriculum Vitae (CVs) for each team member, accompanied by copies of relevant certifications. Firms are also required to provide a detailed Technical Proposal, presenting the proposed methodology and work plan to accomplish the objectives of the consultancy. Additionally, a comprehensive Financial Proposal must be submitted in **Belize Dollars**, detailing all associated costs. The Financial Proposal should include a clear breakdown of expenses and present an all-inclusive total contract price, inclusive of applicable taxes. Firms are required to attach a copy of the company's incorporation/registration, copies of good standing from Belize Tax Services, Social Security and Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry.

Firms must submit their proposals in the following format: one (1) original, two (2) copies, all enclosed in a sealed envelope. Proposal shall be delivered to the Project Manager at Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, during business hours. Firms are required to sign the drop-off sheet at the time of submission.

The submission deadline is **September 30th, 2025, at 10:00 AM.** Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

Packages should be addressed to:

Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard,
Belize City, Belize
Ref: Audit

	Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit – Office of the Prime Minister
Project name and number:	BFSF/GSA/M01/2023/01: Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources
Project background:	In November 2021, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Government of Belize (GOB) finalized the single largest debt conversion agreement through the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and the Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA). These agreements referred to as the Belize Blue Bond has enabled the country to reduce its debt burden and increase its long-term investment in Ocean conservation for 20 years and beyond with a commitment to protect up to 30% of Belize's ocean, in addition to other conservation commitments, beneficial to the country's economy and people. In 2022 as stipulated by the BLA and CFA, a Conservation Fund was established known as the "Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future". The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF) has two (2) funding mechanisms: (i) Government Strategic Allocation (GSA), and (ii) the Grant Awards Program (GAP). The GSA is earmarked for the Government and its agencies to support the achievement of the milestones and conservation commitments included in the CFA. The GSA is to be coordinated by a single government entity the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit for the development of the Government's proposal to the BFSF. The GSA submission for 2023 project proposal has been prepared alongside key agencies such as the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), Belize Fisheries Department (FiD), Belize Forest Department (FD), Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), and Belize Coast Guard (BCG). The GSA proposal aims to ensure the successful and timely delivery of the timebound Milestones and other conservation commitments for the Government of Belize with a focus on establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources. The project is comprised of six components. These components are: I. Strengthened Belize Fisheries Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize's Blue Space II. Electronic Observer Program for High Seas Fisheries III. Enhanced Enforcement and Protection of Belize's Marine Resources IV. Strengthened National Capacity for the Delivery of Belize's Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management V. Improved Monitoring, Reporting and Socialization of Mangroves and Reserves VI. Adaptive Management, Implementation and Socialization of Belize's Blue Bond
Project location:	**Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit - OPM** 3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building Lake Independence Boulevard Belize City Belize City, Belize
Project contact person(s):	Angeline Valentine **Project Manager** 3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building Lake Independence Boulevard Belize City Belize City, Belize Email: projectmanager.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz
Location of records:	Jose Alpuche **Finance Officer** 3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building Lake Independence Boulevard Belize City Belize City, Belize Email: financeofficer.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz
Currency of records maintained:	BZD
Period of transactions covered:	1 April 2024 to 31st March 2025
Expenditures incurred/reported during the period	BZD $5,508,285.31 Cash Disbursements: (BZD $ 3,864,118.24) Encumbrance : (BZD $1,644,167.07)
Intended start date :	15 October, 2025
Submission deadline (including draft and final reports to local agency management):	Initial Draft Audit by 15 December 2025 Final Signed Audit by 15 January, 2026

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC NOTICES
CAYE CAULKER VILLAGE REFERENDUM
WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2025
OFFENCES

The Elections and Boundaries Department hereby reminds the general public that the following are offences in connection with the upcoming referendum scheduled to be held in Caye Caulker Village on Wednesday, 8th October 2025.

The Representation of the People Act states as follows:

RESTRICTION ON SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR ON REFERENDUM DAY

Section 28:

(1.) Subject to sub-section (2), every person who is the holder of any liquor licence granted under the provisions of any Act authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor in any premises maintained solely for that purpose shall take all necessary steps to cause such premises to be closed to the public upon election day until twelve midnight.

(2.) Every person who is the holder of any hotel licence, special hotel licence, restaurant licence or licence to sell liquor in any premises not solely maintained for that purpose, granted under the provisions of any Act authorizing the sale of intoxicating liquor at any time up on election day until twelve midnight.

(3.) Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

EMPLOYERS TO ALLOW EMPLOYEE PRESCRIBED PERIOD FOR VOTING

Section 29:

(1.) Every employer shall, on polling day, allow to every voter in his employ a reasonable time during the prescribed period for voting, and no employer shall make any deduction from the pay or other remuneration of any such voter or impose upon or exact from him any penalty by reason of his absence during such period.

(2.) Any employer who, directly or indirectly refuses to grant, or by intimidation, undue influence or in any other way, interferes with the granting of reasonable time to any voter in his employ during the prescribed period of voting as in this section provided, shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.

INFRINGEMENT BY ELECTION OFFICERS

Section 30:

Every Election Officer who

(a) makes in any record, return or other document which he is required to keep or make under his Regulation, any entry, which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be false, or does not believe to be true; or

(b) permits any person whom he knows or has reasonable cause to believe not to be a blind person or an incapacitated person to vote in the manner provided for blind persons or incapacitated person, as the case may be; or

(c) refuse to permit any person whom he knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be a blind person or an incapacitated person to vote in a manner provided for blind persons orincapacitated person, as the case may be; or

(d) wilfully prevents any person from voting at polling station at which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe such person is entitled to vote; or

(e) wilfully rejects or refuses to count any ballot paper which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe is validly cast for any choice in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations; or

(f) wilfully counts any ballot paper as being cast for any choice, which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe was not validly cast for such choice.

is guilty of an offence against this section and on conviction on indictment, liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding five years:

BRIBERY

Section 32:

(1) The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act

(a) every person who, directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of that voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election;

(b) every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place or employment to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of that voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce that voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does anysuch act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election;

(c) every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or to endeavour to procure, the return of any person as an elected member of the House of Representatives or the vote of any voter at any election;

(d) every person who, upon or in consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures, or engages, promises or endeavours to persuade the return of any person as an elected member of the House of Representatives or the vote of any voter at any election;

(e) every person who advances or pays, or causes to be paid, any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that that money, or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays, or causes to be paid, any money to any person, in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election;

(f) every voter who, before or during any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees, or contracts for, any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for himself or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any election;

(g) every person who, after any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on ac count of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election.

(2) No person shall be guilty of bribery under subsection (1) who gives to any other person any article not exceeding twenty dollars in value.

UNDUE INFLUENCE

Section 34:

Every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or any other person on his behalf

(a) makes use, or threatens to make use, of any force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any person, in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting or on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting, at any election, or

(b) by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent contrivance impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of any voter, or thereby compels, induces or prevails upon any voter either to give or refrain from giving his vote at any election, is guilty of undue influence within the meaning of this Act.

PENALTY FOR CERTAIN ILLEGAL PRACTICES AT ELECTION

Section 37:

Every person who-

(a) votes or induces, or procures any person to vote, at any election, knowing that he or that person is prohibited by this Act, or by any law in force, from voting at that election; or

(b) before or during any election, knowingly publishes any false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at the election for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate; or

(c) before or during any election, for the purpose of affecting the return of any candidate at such election, makes or publishes any false statement of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of such candidate; or

(d) between the date of notification by the Chief Elections Officer of the issue by the Governor General of a writ for the purposes of an election and the day after polling at such election, whether in a general election or in a by-election, acts in a disorderly manner with intent to prevent the transaction of the business of a public meeting called for the purpose of promoting the election of a candidate as a member to serve in the House of Representatives, shall be guilty of an illegal practice, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and, in default, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve months.

OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF BALLOT PAPERS

Section 38:

(1) Every person who

(a) forges or counterfeits, or fraudulently defaces, or fraudulently destroys, any nomination [ballot] paper, or delivers to the presiding officer any nomination paper, knowing the same to be forged; or

(b) forges or counterfeits, or fraudulently defaces, or destroys, any ballot paper or the official mark on any ballot paper; or

(c) without due authority, supplies a ballot paper to any person; or

(d) fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than the ballot paper which he/she is authorised by law to put in; or

(e) fraudulently takes out of a polling station any ballot paper; or

(f) without due to authority destroys, takes, opens, or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purpose of any election, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable, if he is a presiding officer or clerk employed at the polling station, to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years, and, if he is any other person, to a fine, on summary conviction, not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years, and, if he is any other person, to a fine, on summary conviction, not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years.

(2) In any indictment or other prosecution for an offence in relation to the nomination papers, ballot boxes, ballot papers, and marking instruments at an election, the property in such papers, boxes, and instruments may be stated to be in the returning officer at such election.

MAINTENANCE OF OR ORDER AT POLLING STATIONS

Section 40:

(1) During the hours when the poll is open on Referendum Day no person shall assemble or congregate within one hundred yards of any building on which is situate any polling station.

(2) This section shall not apply –

(a) To any voters who are waiting to poll their votes at such polling station and who obey any instructions which may be given by the presiding officer or any constable for the purpose of forming a queue with tother electors also so waiting; or

(b) To any person who may under the provisions of the Act lawfully enter or remain in such polling station.

(3) Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this section commits an offence against this section and is liable on summary conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine and period of imprisonment.

PROHIBITION OF THE PRINTING AND PUBLISHING OF PRESCRIBED FORMS (BALLOT PAPERS)

Rule 16:

(1) No one other than the Chief Elections Officer or a person authorized by him/her shall print or publish any form prescribed by these Regulations or print or publish any form which in the opinion of the Chief Elections Officer resembles or sufficiently resembles any form prescribed by these Regulations so as to be capable of misleading an elector into believing that that form was a form or a sample of a form printed or published by the Chief Elections Officer.
Provided thatIt shall be lawful to print or publish a form or a sample of a form which has printed on it in a conspicuous manner: "This is NOT an official form and is NOT printed or published by or under the authority of the Chief Elections Officer. It is for the guidance of electors only."

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of paragraph (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Any person who distributes any form printed or published in contravention of the provisions of paragraph (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment.

INFRINGEMENT OF SECRECY

Section 39:

(1.) Every officer and clerk in attendance at a polling station shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting in that station, and shall not communicate to any person, except for some purpose authorized by this Act before the poll is closed, any information as to the name or number on the register of electors of any voter who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at that station, and no person whosoever shall interfere or attempt to interfere with a voter when marking his vote or otherwise obtain in the polling station any information as to the candidate for whom any voter there is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to any voter there.

(2.) Every clerk and agent in attendance at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not attempt to ascertain at the counting the number on the back of any ballot paper or communicate any information obtained at the counting as to the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper.

(3.) No person shall directly or indirectly induce any voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it, so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for or against whom he has so marked his vote.

(4.) Any person acting in contravention of the provisions of this section is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and in default of payment, toimprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

~End~

Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE:
Project Communications Specialist

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize´s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanent Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities' livelihoods.

A cornerstone of this project is partnership with Belize's coastal and fishing communities. These communities are at the frontlines of conservation and resource management, and their participation, knowledge, and stewardship are critical to the project's success. As such, communication and outreach efforts must go beyond awareness-raising and actively engage communities in shaping, owning, and sustaining conservation outcomes.

The Communications Specialist will therefore play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between technical conservation efforts, government priorities, and the lived realities of local stakeholders. By translating complex information into accessible messages, facilitating dialogue with fisherfolk and community leaders, and ensuring that community voices are reflected in national and global platforms, the Specialist will help strengthen trust, participation, and long-term sustainability of conservation initiatives in Belize.

Objective

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the Communication Specialist will aim to increase overall visibility of the project and its achievements and ensure communications on and around the project actions and impacts are disseminated on national and international levels. The engagement of a dedicated communication staff member will provide consistent, high-quality and effective products that can strengthen the project implementation in Belize and share best practices and key learnings with a wider audience through the BGI-IP Hub and Global Coordination Project. Strategic communications activities and knowledge management products may be used to facilitate future PFP and BGI-IP initiatives and will be shared broadly. The communications specialist will also play a key role in connecting with the larger Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program under the GEF, sharing communications products and collaborating on best practices.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Communications Specialist will be responsible for the following:

1. Strategic Communication and Outreach:
- Develop and implement a project communication plan that raises awareness of the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project, ensuring alignment with the BBFP Communication Strategy and Implementation plan, national priorities and community realities.
- Produce and disseminate communication products (print, broadcast, audiovisual, and digital) tailored to diverse audiences including government, civil society, academia, donors, and local coastal/fishing communities.
- Translate technical and policy information into clear, accessible messages that resonate with fisherfolk and other community stakeholders.
- Develop a publicly accessible website hosted by BBFP U for the project, to showcase project documents, lessons learned and project successes.

2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:
- Lead communication and outreach activities with protected areas managers, ensuring the use of clear, culturally appropriate, and participatory approaches that support their role in conservation and stakeholder engagement using culturally appropriate and participatory approaches.
- Organize and deliver presentations, workshops, and dialogues with fisherfolk, community leaders, and stakeholders to share project goals, progress, and opportunities.
- Support executing partners (MPA and PA managers) in organizing regional/local stakeholder meetings and lead an annual national-level meeting to inform stakeholders, decision-makers, media, and the public on project progress.
- Contribute to the organization of events planned as part of the project

3. Media Relations and Social Media:
- Build and maintain strong relationships with media outlets to ensure accurate and consistent coverage of RBB project activities.
- Plan and coordinate media events, press releases, radio programs, and campaigns that highlight project achievements and lessons learned.
- Develop and manage the project's online presence, including website updates, social media posts, and engagement on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube; ensure the platforms are updated weekly.

4. Knowledge Management and Documentation:
- Support in the development of the project's promotional material and publications.
- Collect, document and produce lessons learned, good practices, and success stories for dissemination nationally, regionally, and globally.
- Ensure the editing of project document (reports, presentations, etc.) and alignment with WWF GEF and Government of Belize Communications guidelines and branding.
- Collaborate with the Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Management Officer to capture and present project progress and lessons at national, regional, and international forums.
- Maintain a photo/video database and ensure proper storage of communication materials for long-term use.

5. Coordination and Technical Support:
- Collaborate closely with the Project Manager, BBFP Unit, partner agencies, and community organizations to ensure coherence in communication efforts.
- Contribute to gender-sensitive and inclusive communication approaches in all project activities.
- Provide communication support during community consultations, policy dialogues, technical meetings, and project events.
- Be available to travel to coastal communities and participate in evening or weekend activities as required.
- Be available to travel to Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program regional or global events

6. 4. Technical Delivery of Project Components:
- Component 3 will focus on Strengthened communications, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program.

Within this component, the project communications specialist will contribute to:

3.1.1. OUTPUT: Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed and implemented:
- Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed to include required project reports, communications products to be produced (such as videos, social media posts)
- Facilitation of communication efforts for project coordination among all stakeholders.

3.1.2 OUTPUT: Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management products and platforms, including.

Communications materials designed and developed such as best practice manuals; case studies; technical reports and in coordination with the MEK officer, dissemination of knowledge materials in an accessible and gender-sensitive manner to relevant projects, programs, and initiatives.

Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management Products.

3.1.3. OUTPUT: Participation in BGI IP Communications events and workshops

Staff remain in close communication with BGI IP and attend quarterly virtual calls with the IP.

Qualifications and Experience

Education:
- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies, Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field.
- Certification or training in Sustainable Communication, Environmental Communication, or related specialization is an asset.

Professional Experience:
- At least five (5) years of proven experience in communications at the national and regional levels, including social media and online communications.
- Minimum of two (2) years of direct experience engaging Belizean coastal and fishing communities, with strong understanding of their socio-economic realities, cultural context, and environmental challenges.
- Experience in developing and delivering presentations and workshops, particularly with fisherfolk and grassroots community groups.
- Demonstrated experience in collecting and managing data and information from fisherfolk and local communities for knowledge management and reporting.
- Proven experience working with managing entities such as community-based organizations, NGOs, government agencies, or fisheries cooperatives in Belize's marine and coastal sector.

Skills and Competencies:
- Strong knowledge of Belize's community environment, governance structures, and the social context of coastal and fishing communities.
- Ability to translate technical and conservation concepts into clear, accessible communication products for diverse audiences (local communities, policymakers, donors, and international stakeholders).
- Demonstrated skills in media relations, audiovisual content creation (photography, videography), and use of digital platforms (social media, websites).
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; Spanish is considered an asset
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and familiarity with multimedia and design tools (e.g., Adobe Creative Suite, video editing software).
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, and willingness to travel extensively within Belize, regionally or internationally.

Personal Qualities:
- Strong interpersonal skills with proven ability to build trust and maintain relationships in multicultural and community settings.
- Creative, adaptable, solution-oriented, and committed to conservation and sustainable development.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements: The salary of the contract is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The estimated Starting Date and Duration: Start date will be effective at contract signature. Contracts are renewed biennially based on an assessment of performance. This position requires full-time commitment.

Interested persons can send an Application Letter and CV along with three references to email: RBBPM.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address **by Friday, 12th September 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

RBB Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City
RE: Finance Assistant

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV and provided during interviews.

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SUPERCHARGED PREPAY PLANS

CORE PREPAY PLAN
5GB REGULAR DATA
+
3GB SOCIAL MEDIA DATA
150 National minutes
200 SMS
$35.00
PRESS 1

EDGE PREPAY PLAN
15GB REGULAR DATA
+
5GB SOCIAL MEDIA DATA
UNLIMITED on-net minutes + SMS
600 off-net minutes
$60.00
PRESS 2

PRIME PREPAY PLAN
40GB REGULAR DATA
+
10GB SOCIAL MEDIA DATA
UNLIMITED NATIONAL CALLS + SMS
$90.00
PRESS 3

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